

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathl): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No information is available in this regard. It appears that cultivation in forest areas used to depend upon rainfall.

(d) At the intersection of any defined drainage channel in the forest area with the DVC canal system, suitable cross drainage works have been constructed by the DVC as far as practicable. It is not a fact that water cannot be supplied from the DVC canal to the jungle areas due to constructional defects of the canals.

(e) Does not arise.

Railway Gazette

2966. Shri I. Eacharan: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a practice, that Railway "Gazette" is supplied only to the Railway staff and not to outside bodies or members of the public; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for these restrictions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) These are periodical departmental publications containing mainly material which it is considered necessary to bring to the notice of Railway staff in connection with Railway working. The inclusion therein of any matter which might also be of interest to non-Railway persons is purely incidental.

Losses suffered due to lack of storage in G.P.O. Bombay

2967. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that G.P.O. Bombay suffered losses due to lack of proper storage arrangements; and

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) On account of heavy rains in Bombay during the present monsoon season, the basement of the Bombay G.P.O. was flooded. In the Postal Stock Depot, Bombay, which is located in this basement, "stores" (jute bags, cotton bags, twine, etc.) valued at about Rs. 1,20,000/- got soaked in water. The extent of deterioration or reduction in the period of serviceability of these stores has not been assessed fully, but the loss on this account may amount to several thousand rupees. There has also been a nominal loss to the G.P.O. Bombay itself due to spoilage of some waste paper stored in this basement.

(b) Efforts have been made to secure additional godown space, but the Postmaster-General Bombay, has not been successful as yet. Efforts are still continuing.

Central Workshop, Amritsar

2968. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities in the examination for selection of apprentices held recently in the Central Workshop, Amritsar; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) and (b). Five complaints were received, of which three were found to be false and two genuine. Of these two, one was of concealment of character and antecedents and the other of impersonation. Instructions already exist to obtain declaration in the application form from the candidates with regard to their previous service and experience. As regards impersonation, suitable instructions are being issued by the Northern Railway to avoid recurrence.