

essential for functional efficiency in the discharge of an Officer's assigned responsibilities. Normally, in accordance with the Vienna Convention, the representatives of Public Sector Undertakings, including autonomous and promotional organisations are not granted diplomatic status by the Government of India. The only exceptions are Officers of such Organisations stationed in the Eastern European countries and three other places (Brussels, Tokyo and Abu Dhabi) who have been given diplomatic status as they form part of the Indian Diplomatic Missions there and functionally need such privileges.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Promotion Avenues of office Clerks of Commercial Branch

811. SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to 1947, office clerk of Commercial Branch of Western Railway were eligible for post of Claims Tracers and Commercial Inspectors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that office Clerk of Commercial Branch are eligible for Rates Inspector's post; and

(c) if so, reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Position for the period prior to 1947 is not available.

(b) and (c). Office Clerks in the scale of Rs. 330-560 working in the Commercial Branch and having knowledge of rating and Commercial Clerks in the scale of Rs. 330-560 have been eligible for promotion to the posts of Rates Inspector in the scale Rs. 425-640 on the basis of a written suitability test. This avenue of promotion has been decided in consultation with the recognised unions.

Service Conditions of Claims Tracers

812. SHRI VIRDA RAM PHULWARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that Claims Tracer/ Assistant Commercial Inspector working in headquarter Claims Office physically lift stations records/yard records to trace the missing full wagon load goods/ smalls/parcel, etc. in respect of compensation of claims;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above employees work in day and travel in the same night without any rest, all over India;

(c) whether an All India duty card pass has been issued to them since they are conducting enquiries all over India; and

(d) if so, how they fall under category of Supervisory staff?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) No. They are, however, required to extract necessary information from the relevant records made available to them at places where enquiries are required to be made by them.

(b) They chalk out their programme of work with the approval of their controlling officer. After completing their job at a place of work, they leave the place by a convenient day or night train after availing necessary rest.

(c) Yes, all India duty card passes are issued to those Claims Tracers/ Asstt. Commercial Inspectors who are required to proceed to different railways in connection with their officials work.

(d) While Assistant Commercial Inspectors are treated as supervisory staff, Claims Tracers are not treated as such.