

(b) if so, the reasons for abnormal delay to absorb 30 senior workmen under DEN (Construction) Dhanbad against these posts in open line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Absorption of casual labour in construction department Eastern Railway

3957. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 550 posts in class IV cadre have been approved by Railway Board against 40 per cent reserved posts in construction Department, Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not absorbing the casual labourers of Construction Department, Eastern Railway against the said posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha. It may however be stated that actual creation of Construction reserve posts is done by the Zonal Railway administration and not by the Railway Board.

Welfare Indian Emigrants Abroad

3958. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Embassies are having sufficient staff to look after the

welfare of Indian emigrants working abroad; and

(b) the basis for determining the adequacy of the strength of the staff in each Mission/post; and for selecting the personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) and (b) The Missions and Posts abroad are staffed according to the prescribed norms, taking into account the quantum of work involved (including the work relating to the welfare of Indian emigrants) and the budgetary constraints. The staff strength is reviewed from time to time in the light of these norms after on-the-spot studies by teams of Foreign Service Inspectors and other administrative means. The criteria for selecting personnel are mainly (i) functional requirements; (ii) experience, competence and aptitude including the knowledge of the region and of foreign languages.

Construction of Railway line to Porbander

3959. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the conversion of rail line upto Porbander in Gujarat; and

(b) whether Government will consider to extend the converted rail service upto the port of Porbander simultaneously when it is done upto Porbander Railway station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The cumulative progress achieved on the second phase of the conversion project, i.e., from Hapa to Okha/Porbandar is 75 per cent, first phase having already been completed.