

(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.

(b) The present proposal is to convert the M.G. line into B.G. upto Porbandar and there is no proposal to extend the B.G. line upto Porbandar port,

**Advertisements By N.F.R.A.**

3960. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH;  
SHRI NABAIN CHAND  
CHOUBEY;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that N.F. Railway Advertisements are not equally distributed to all the States News papers specially Patna and Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details State-wise?

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

**Waiving of demurrage charges at New Jalpaiguri**

3961. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that demurrage charges at New Jalpaiguri station North Frontier Railway have been waived by certain commercial officers to get undue benefit from one Hardware Merchant at Siliguri; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The complaint received in this regard is under investigation.

**Indian Seamen exploited during Falklands war**

3962. SHRI R. L. BHATTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Indian seamen exploited during Falklands war' appearing in the 'Tribune' Chandigarh dated the 11th October 1982; and

(b) if so, facts thereof and his reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes.

(b) S. S. Uganda is a British Flag Ship owned by British India Steam Navigation Co. and managed by Peninsular and Oriental Lines. This ship is used for educational cruises for children between London and Mediterranean Ports. Except the officers and petty officers, the entire crew employed on board S. S. Uganda was being recruited from Calcutta. The total Indian crew employed on the ship was 232 before the out-break of Falkland war.

On the outbreak of the war, the British Government requisitioned this ship for converting it into a hospital ship for utilisation in the war zone. The Indian seamen were asked if they would volunteer for service in the war zone and promised National Maritime Board Wages, which are applicable to Indian seamen recruited from India on Indian and foreign ship under Indian Article of Agreement plus 150 per cent of the NMB wages. 166 Indian seamen declined to continue and were repatriated to India. A large number of Indian seamen at Calcutta volunteered to join the ship at the promised wages and finally 64 were signed on and were