

separate standing rules for the Central Public Works Department. Ordinarily, such panels are to be prepared once a year. When, however, panels so drawn up are exhausted, immediate vacancies in the Department are filled by making provisional promotions pending drawal of a fresh panel by the Departmental Promotion Committee which usually takes some time.

(b) A meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee was convened last in October 1958, to draw up a panel of Section Officers suitable for Promotion to the grade of Assistant Engineer (Civil). Another meeting of the Departmental Promotion Committee was convened in July 1959, to draw a panel of Section Officers suitable for promotion to the grade of Assistant Engineer (Electrical). The next meeting is scheduled to be held shortly.

(c) and (d). The Government received representations from different groups of Section Officers (University Graduates and A.M.I.Es.) regarding criteria for eligibility to promotion to the grade of Assistant Engineer. These representations had to be considered in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs which took sometime and ultimately the rules of eligibility for promotion to the grade of Assistant Engineer had to be changed. This explains the delay in summoning a regular Departmental Promotions Committee.

Employment Exchange Office at Basti

4006. Shri Ram Shankar Lal: Will the **Minister of Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an employment exchange office in Basti between Gonda and Garokhpur Districts of North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether in the employment of class I employees in the railway the candidates are asked for from Basti Employment Exchange office; and

(c) if so, how many persons registered in this exchange have been called since its inception?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, when the employer wishes to recruit from Basti District.

(c) None so far.

Employees' Provident Fund

4007. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the **Minister of Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees of the Employees' Provident Fund has recommended an increase in the rate of interest on provident fund accumulations of subscribers;

(b) if so, by what percentage; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

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

Import of Second-hand American Machinery

4008. Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has imported second-hand American machinery during the last three years; and

(b) if so, what is the amount spent for purchasing second-hand machinery and for which industries?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). There is provision in the import policy for grant of licences for second-hand machinery on *ad hoc* basis to actual users, subject to certain conditions. Second-hand machinery is, however not classified separately and statistics are not maintained on that basis.