

been wiser if some educational qualifications were prescribed for candidates contesting elections to the Parliament and the State legislatures ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHURY) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The report appeared in the *Statesman*, New Delhi dated the 1st October, 1970.

(b) This is a matter of opinion. Neither the Constitution of India nor the Representation of the People Act, 1951, requires any minimum educational qualification for any person to be chosen as a Member of Parliament or of a State Legislature.

Aid to Industrial Co-operative Societies formed by unemployed Engineers

6760. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any scheme to help the Industrial Co-operative Society formed by the unemployed Engineers ;

(b) whether such societies have come into existence and whether any of them have sought Government help ; and

(c) the kind of help to be provided to them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) to (c). There are schemes for assisting Industrial Cooperative Societies by way of share participation, loans to members for purchase of shares, fixed capital and working capital loans to Societies and managerial assistance. These are applicable to Cooperatives of Engineers also. A few such Societies have come into existence and have also been given assistance by the State Governments.

Retrenchment of Casual Workers of Railway Electrification at Bandel, Burdwan Division

6761. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 260 casual labourers working in the Railway Electrification at Bandel (Burdwan Division), West Bengal, were retrenched after 11 years of service ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to absorb them in Railway Electrification work in other Divisions ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes. These casual labourers had put in 5 to 11 years service at the time of retrenchment on 5.10.1970.

(b) Metropolitan Transport Project Calcutta and Eastern Railway Administration have been asked to Absorb these casual labourers to the extent possible.

Dining Car not provided in Assam Mail

6762. SHRI HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Assam Mail has no Dining Car and if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : Dining car has not been provided on the Assam Mail between New Delhi and Barauni on the broad gauge portion as adequate catering arrangements exist at stations *en route* to meet the food requirements of passengers. On the metre gauge portion between Barauni and Tinsukia, dining car is provided.

Production of Cement

6764. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether any steps are being taken to increase the production of cement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : Yes, Sir. Government have recently issued a Press Note inviting applications from entrepreneurs for setting up of new units for manufacture of cement, on an urgent basis in the country, by 31st August 1971.