

रेल मंत्री श्री हनुमंतैया : (क) जी नहीं, लेकिन थोड़े बहुत खटमल वहां हो सकते हैं।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) फर्नीचर को खटमलरहित करने के लिए कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

Disparities in emoluments of low-paid and high-paid officials of Railways

7459. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are disparities in the emoluments of low-paid and high-paid officials of the Railways ; and

(b) the steps taken to bridge the gap ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Under the existing pay structure, the minimum of the lowest scale is Rs. 70/- p.m. plus dearness allowance of Rs. 71/- p. m. and the maximum salary payable is Rs. 3500/- p. m.

With the increase in the rates of dearness allowance from time to time in the case of staff in the lowest scale, the ratio of disparity between the lowest and the highest scales has been reduced. After the First Pay Commission, in 1947 the ratio of the highest salary to the lowest emolument in Railway service was 55 : 1 and at present the ratio is 25 : 1. It may, however, be added that Government have since appointed another Pay Commission to examine the emoluments and service conditions of Central Government employees including Railway employees.

Circular Railway for Bombay

7460. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for Tube Railway or circular Railway for Bombay ; and

(b) if so, the progress made in its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). There is, as yet, no proposal for the construction of Circular Railway or Tube Railway in Bombay.

2. Railways had set up a Metropolitan Transport Organisation in Bombay in November, 1969. This Organisation is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting :-

(i) Preliminary Engineering Survey for a Third Terminal at Ballard Estate together with an approach line to the Third Terminal ;

(ii) Techno-economic Feasibility Studies for the Mass Rapid Transit System in Bombay.

3. Preliminary Engineering Survey for the Third Terminal has been completed. The Studies for Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) are in progress. These are expected to be completed by July, 1972.

Wheat Rots in Open Wagons

7461. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item which appeared under the caption "Wheat rots in open wagons" in the *Blitz* dated the 27th June, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) On 3-6-1971, special of 51 wagons of foodgrains was loaded at Amritsar and Bhagatwala for Sahibganj and Bhagalpur. It consisted of 8 covered wagons and the rest opens. It was diverted to Wadala (B. P. T. Railway), as the original booked terminals were congested. During peak