

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

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

(a) The work on this contract is proceeding as per schedule.

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

Increase in price of Salt and essential commodities in Assam and Meghalaya

4697. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTY :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great scarcity of salt in Assam and Meghalaya ;

(b) whether the price of salt has risen very high throughout Assam and Meghalaya, specially in rural areas ; and

(c) if so, what are the causes of this salt scarcity and abnormal rise in its price ?

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

(a) to (c). It has been reported that there is some shortage of salt supply in the two States and also an increase in the selling price of salt due to abnormal increase in demand following the influx of refugees from Bangla Desh.

Seniority of Drivers Grade 'C' of Jaipur Division (Western Railway)

4698. **SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the seniority of the employees of Loco Running Staff at Western Railway had to be regularised according to the rules in force before holding the selection ;

(b) if so, whether the ratio between rankers and direct recruitments, had been maintained and if not, what is the deficiency ;

(c) whether one group had been deprived of its right to appear in the selection recently held in Jaipur Division by virtue of not allotting the ratio in the seniority list ; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to provide proper ratio in the seniority as well as in the selection ?

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

(b) No. The ratio could not be maintained because of non-availability of rankers (Shunters grade 'B') for diesel training. The shortfall was of 27 Shunters grade 'B' and it has since been reduced to 19.

(c) No one was deprived of his rights to appear in the selection of Drivers Grade 'B' held recently in the Jaipur Division. Only Drivers Grade 'C' were eligible and were called for the selection as per their seniority.

(d) Does not arise.

Panel of Promotion of Driver Grade 'B' Ajmer Division

4699. **SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the selection of Drivers Grade 'B' held in Ajmer Division had been cancelled and if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the promotion of the seniors will not have to be regularised due to the aforesaid cancellation ; and

(c) whether reversions had been made without declaring the panel of drivers grade 'B' and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (c). Yes. The selection was not conducted strictly in accordance with the extant instructions of the Railway.

(b) The promotions have been treated as *ad-hoc* pending fresh selection.

Over bridge at Ramghat Road crossing at Aligarh

4700. **SHRI C. P. SHAILANI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the decision to build an over bridge on Ramghat Road crossing at Aligarh had been taken by his Ministry some time back ;