

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The instructions issued by this Ministry in 1968 to all the Public Sector Undertakings under the charge of this Ministry were to the effect that in making appointments of Secretaries in future special consideration should be given to candidates who are qualified Secretaries. The present Secretary of the NIDC was appointed in the year 1965 before the issue of the general instructions.

Amenities in Sweepers' Colony at Kharagpur Railway Town.

2174. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sweepers Colony in the Kharagpur Railway Town has been provided with all the necessary amenities;

(b) if not, whether Government have any plan to provide them with essential amenities like light, water and educational facilities in this Colony; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) All the necessary amenities are available in the 5 Sweeper colonies at Kharagpur settlement excepting one colony near Durga Mandir, where electric lights in individual units have not yet been provided.

(b) In the Colony near Durga Mandir, where individual units do not have lights, 30% are being provided in the current year and balance will be programmed in future years according to availability of funds. Primary schools are located in all the settlements at Kharagpur. Near Durga Mandir Colony, Higher Secondary schools for girls as well as boys also exist.

(c) As in (b) above.

Vacancies of Safaiwalas in Foreign Traffic Account Office, Delhi (Western Railway)

2175. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some vacancies of Safaiwalas exist in the Foreign Traffic Accounts Office of the Western Railway at Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill up the vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of Clerks who passed Appendix II-A Examination

2176. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of Clerks in the Accounts Department who have passed the Appendix II-A examination and are awaiting promotion on each Zonal Railway ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for their promotion in the higher grades ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA):

(a) Central	139
Eastern	411
Northern	243
North Eastern	274
Northeast Frontier	16
Southern	429
South Eastern	296
South Central	145
Western	446

(b) The Appendix II-A qualified Clerks Grade II are promoted as Clerks Grade I according to the quota of vacancies reserved for them as and when such vacancies arise.

Floods in West Bengal and Relief Operations

2177. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have assessed the total loss sustained by the people of West Bengal due to floods in the year 1970 ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to assist the victims of flood ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) According to the assessment made by the Government of West Bengal, the total damage due to floods in the State during the year 1970, was Rs. 87 crores. Out of this, the damage to crops, houses and public utilities was assessed as Rs. 61 crores, Rs. 11 crores and Rs. 15 crores respectively.

(b) The Government of West Bengal carried out rescue and relief operations in the flood affected areas, obtaining the assistance of the army authorities wherever necessary. Assistance given by the State Government to the flood victims included, sanction of gratuitous relief, house building loans, test relief works, rehabilitation assistance to non-agriculturist families, supply of medicines, provision of drinking water, book grants, remission of fees, cattle purchase loans, taccavi loans etc.

The Central Government gave financial assistance of Rs. 18.91 crores, to the State

Government towards flood relief expenditure during 1970-71, based on the recommendations of the Central Team, which made an assessment of the flood damage and extent of relief measures in the State during the 1970 floods. In addition, the Central Government gave Rs. 5 crores to West Bengal Government, as short-term loan for the purchase of seeds, fertilisers, etc.

Running of Trains with Diesel Engines in Kerala

2178. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to use diesel engines for running trains in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, when the proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAJIYA) : (a) and (b). A large number of goods trains and three Mail/Express trains running into Kerala are already dieselised. More trains are programmed to be dieselised in Kerala during the Fourth Plan as part of a phased programme for dieselisation. The allotment of diesel locomotives will depend upon their availability and the relative operating requirements for the various sections.

Book value of Light Railways

2179. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present book value of the Howrah-Amra and Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railways owned and controlled by M/s. Martin Burn and Company ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAJIYA) : The Howrah-Amra Light Railway is owned by the