

(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