

(a) the average number of wagons required during a year by Iron Ore Mines in Orissa to transport iron-ore and how many wagons are made available to them during the period; and

(b) the steps taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) The average number of wagons indented by the Iron Ore Mine Owners in Orissa during 1971-72 for Steel Plants and export purposes was 768 wagons per day. The daily average number of wagons supplied during the period was 744.

(b) Adequate steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of various anti-social activities affecting movement in the Eastern Sector through massive patrolling of track and other vulnerable points in conjunction with the State Government. The end-falling trucks utilised for various defence moves, during last few months are being gradually put back to the circuit for movement of export ore from Barajamda sector. More BOX wagons have been put in the export ore circuit to step up despatches for Paradip Port.

Representation regarding Confirmation of Non-gazetted staff clerk grade I to Dy. C. A. O., Western Railway, Ajmer.

3206. **SHRI FATEHSINGHRAO GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.1608* on the 8th June, 1971 regarding representation for confirmation of non-gazetted staff Clerk Grade-I to Dy.C.A.O., Western Railway, Ajmer and state.

(a) whether the representation made by the employees has since been considered and;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) (a) and (b) : On examination of representation of Shri Mangilal Rustogi, Clerk Grade I for

his confirmation it has come to notice that there is one more employee, Shri G. C. Chaturvedi, senior to him who is awaiting confirmation. Earlier Shri Chaturvedi was not considered for confirmation due to certain reasons. It has since been decided that he should be given the benefit of retrospective confirmation. Shri Rustogi's case for confirmation will be taken up next.

Supply of Wagons to Assam

3207. **SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of cement and other commodities in Assam have gone up for want of supply due to shortage of wagons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to increase the movement of wagons to Assam ?

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

(b) General goods traffic to Assam during 1971-72 was seriously affected on account of various dislocations to train services in the Eastern sector due to various anti-social activities. Nearly 20,000 wagons were held upto December 1971 on Eastern Railway alone which caused general shortage of wagons. Position was further aggravated due to extensive floods and breaches over North Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways and heavy movement of food-grains and other essential goods for refugees and heavy Defence moves. The number of indents registered by traders were also highly inflated as the Railways allowed free registration of indents without any ceiling. With the improvement in law and order position a d reduction of the tempo of various special moves, all-out efforts are being made to increase the movement of goods to Assam. For example, 3454 B.G. and 2205 M. G. wagons of foodgrains; 1812 B.G. and 779 M. G. wagons of cement; 520 B. G. and 647 M. G. wagons of salt and 2038 M.G. wagons of sugar were transported to Assam region during the period January '72 to 10th April '72..