

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the suggestions contained therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) to (c). The Government of Bihar have informed that the construction of flood embankments along the present active channel which is one of the old courses of Bagmati is in progress and that they have not received any representation in this regard.

Railway Lines run by Private Companies

906. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railways run by private companies in the country at present ;

(b) whether certain Railway lines run by private companies in the country have been closed and if so, their names ;

(c) the number of persons rendered jobless as a result thereof ; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to reopen these lines and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) There are 8 private-owned Railways, out of which 5 are run by the contiguous Govt. Railways and 3 by the Companies themselves.

(b) Yes, Sir. The private Railways which have recently been closed are :

- (1) Shahadara-Saharanpur Light Railway
- (2) Howrah-Amta Light Railway and
- (3) Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway.

(c) 2749. But it has been decided to absorb them in the Government Railways subject to their suitability.

(d) No, Sir. The owning companies do not propose to re-open these lines and the take-over of these Railways by the Government of India is not justified financially.

Rate of Daily Wages to Casual Labourers of Engineering Department in Bombay Area (Western And Central Railways)

907. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of daily wages paid to the Casual labourers in the Engineering Department of Western and Central Railways in Bombay area ; and

(b) how these wages compare with the wages paid in Bombay area, for similar work, outside Railways in the open market ?

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

Category	Rates	
	Central Railway	Western Railway
Skilled labour :	Rs. 6.20	Rs. 5.00
Semi-skilled labour :	Rs. 4.30	Rs. *4.00
Unskilled labour :	Rs. 3.15	Rs. **3.00

*Rs. 3.60 for Mate

**Rs. 3.30 for Gangman.

(b) The market rates fixed by local civil authorities vary from area to area. Broadly in areas covered by Western Railway, local rates range from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 4.50 for skilled labour, Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 4.50 for semi-skilled labour and Rs. 1.75 to Rs. 3/- for unskilled labour. In areas covered by Central Railway, the local rates range from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7.36 for skilled labour, Rs. 4.25 to Rs. 5.36 for semi-skilled labour and Rs. 3.45 to Rs. 4.86 for unskilled labour.