

**Agitation by Staff of South Eastern Railway Head Office at Garden Reach**

1341. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the continuous agitation of the staff of the South Eastern Railway Head Office at Garden Reach;

(b) if so, the nature of these grievances; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to redress their grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) The main demand is that the posts of Chief Progress Inspectors in grade Rs. 450-575 should be filled exclusively by headquarters staffs at Garden Reach and not on all Railway basis.

(c) Negotiation with the staff and the organised labour is in progress.

**Withdrawal of Second Class Accommodation**

1342. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to withdraw Second Class accommodation in all the trains in the country; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) Second class accommodation has been withdrawn from a large number of trains. It is now available on a few important trains only. The process of withdrawal of this class will be com-

pleted by 31st March, 1974. Thereafter, the present third class will be called second class.                   ! ! !

**Government decision on dieselisation of Express/Mail Trains on Southern Railway**

1343. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to dieselise the express and mail trains on the Southern Railway in the near future;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the decision; and

(c) the position in regard to other zonal Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). Dieselisation of long distance overcrowded Mail/Express trains on all the Railways is being done on a programmed basis having regard to the limited availability of Diesel locomotives which are primarily required for clearance of Essential Goods traffic. There is no proposal at present to dieselise any Mail/Express train on the Southern Railway. However, it is proposed to dieselise in the near future 51 UP/52 Dn. Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Express between Mughalsari and Jammu Tawi on the Northern Railway and 31 UP/32 Dn. Delhi-Ahmedabad Janata Express between Ajmer and Delhi on the Western and Northern Railways.

**Selection of candidates for post of Assistant Controller of Stores (Northern Railway)**

1344. SHRI RAM SWARUP: SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a test for selection of candidates to the post of Assistant Controller of Stores was held in the Northern Railway on the 22nd April, 1973 and a supplementary test was held on 16th July, 1973;

(b) whether 16 candidates qualified in the test in the first instance but subsequently ten candidates were declared to have qualified; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes.

(b) No. Only 10 candidates qualified in the written test.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Supply of Power to Irrigation Projects

1345. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether execution of a large number of irrigation projects has been hampered due to short supply of power in the country;

(b) whether tube-wells are often closed down on account of non-supply of power; and

(c) if so, an assessment thereof and remedial measures proposed to ensure regular supply of power for irrigation purposes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Execution of major and medium irrigation projects does not generally require power supply from the power system and, as such the execution of irrigation projects has not been hampered by short supply of power in the country.

(b) and (c). Even during the power shortage conditions and drought last year, high priority was given to power supply for agricultural purposes and, by and large, the energy requirements of tubewells for lift irrigation were met. The hours of power supply had, however, to be staggered|restricted in some States for limiting the system peak loads and such restriction are still continuing in some areas. It is expected that these restrictions will be removed when availability of power improves.

#### Strength of Lower Courts and High Court in Delhi

1346. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present strength of Lower Courts and High Court in Delhi is not sufficient to deal with increasing number of cases due to heavy rise in incidence of crime in the city;

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the strength of the Courts in Delhi to ensure expeditious disposal of the cases; and

(c) if so, the measure contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) to (c). There has been an increase in the institution of criminal and civil cases both in the lower courts in Delhi as also in the High Court. A proposal to increase the Judge strength of the High Court has been received and is being examined. The Delhi High Court has also moved the Delhi Administration for an increase in the strength of Additional District & Sessions Judges and additions to the cadre of Delhi Judicial Service to cope with the increase in the institution of civil and criminal cases.