

(d) The question of continuing the practice of granting stagnation increments with the introduction of revised pay scales is receiving consideration. No special action is contemplated in regard to Wireless Operators likely to reach the maximum of their grade on any particular date.

Maintenance of Darjeeling-Himalayan Section of North-East Frontier Railway

6215. SHRI D K. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum dated the 16th January, 1974 from people of Darjeeling regarding the running of and maintenance of Darjeeling Himalayan Section of Northeast Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the main points of the Memorandum;

(c) whether Government have examined the demands and suggestions made therein; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) The main points raised in the memorandum are that Railways should take active interest in the working of the Darjeeling-Himalayan section and take adequate steps to reduce its loss, maintain liaison with the State Government to ensure that road transport permits are not issued indiscriminately and at the cost of the Railways. It has further been demanded that there should be a siding at New Jalpaiguri for loading coal to the Darjeeling-Himalayan section, transit delays to consignments should be minimised and old wagons plying on the section should be replaced.

(c) and (d) The various demands/suggestions made in the memorandum are being examined. Every effort is being made to make the Darjeeling-Himalayan section economically viable by attracting additional traffic improving the services, maintaining liaison with the trade and State Government, and by reducing expenditure in working of the line.

Extension of Nilambur-Shoranur Railway Line to Calicut

6216 SHRI C H MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that Nilambur-Shoranur Railway (Southern Railway) is running at a loss, and

(b) whether Government will order a survey to extend it to Calicut to make it profitable?

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

(b) In view of the difficult financial position and poor traffic prospects, it would be difficult to consider this suggestion.

Survey for Melattur-Feroke Railway in Malabar part of Kerala

6217 SHRI C H MOHAMED KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether any new Railway Line was constructed in Malabar part of Kerala after independence, and

(b) whether Government have ordered any survey of the Melattur-Feroke Railway which is only a continuation of the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway Line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No.

(b) No.