

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): A provision of Rs. 35.76 crores for working expenses of the South Central Railway Zone was initially made in the current year by reappropriation of funds from the original budget of the Central and Southern Railways. This figure had to be raised subsequently by about 6 crores to 41.75 crores, mainly to cover the various post-budget factors affecting all Railways such as the increase in the rates of dearness allowance, higher rates of Central Sales Tax, higher prices of fuel and other materials etc.

The provision for expenditure in the current year on works connected with the formation of the South Central Zone, in the headquarters building and residential accommodation for the headquarters staff is approximately 68 lakhs more than the original budget provision of 114 lakhs.

Surplus Engineers in H.E.C., Ranchi

277. **Shri F. K. Ghosh:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 948 and 949 on the 19th November, 1965 and state the present assessment of surplus civil engineers in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi to date and the arrangements made by Government for their absorption in the project itself or in other projects?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): On the 1st April 1967, 51 persons as shown below would be surplus:—

(i) Zonal Engineers/Executive Engineers ..	4
(ii) Assistant Engineers ..	13
(iii) Engineer Assistants/Overseers ..	34

Efforts are being made to absorb the Executive Engineers/Zonal Engineers on alternative jobs in the Company, to the extent possible, and also in other public sector projects. As Assistant Engineers are able to get jobs elsewhere and there is already considerable exodus, it is likely that the surplus persons in this class will be able to secure other jobs and there will be no problem of absorbing them.

As regards Engineer Assistants/Overseers, it has been found possible to give them reorientation training and absorb them on alternative jobs in production. Retrenchment is therefore unlikely.

Air-conditioned Trains

278. **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce some more Air-conditioned trains in the country; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to materialize and on what routes?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). An Air-conditioned Express will be introduced from 1-4-67 to run once a week each on Madras-Howrah, Howrah-Bombay via Nagpur; and Bombay-Madras routes. Besides, frequency of Air-conditioned Expresses, which were running twice a week on New Delhi-Howrah and New Delhi-Bombay routes, was increased to three times a week from 11/13-2-67. Similarly, frequency of Airconditioned Expresses running between New Delhi and Amritsar has been increased from once a week to twice a week from 12-2-67 and will be further increased to three times a week in the time table to come into force from 1-4-67.

Raid on Tawa Railway Station

279. **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on