

(b) when Government are likely to introduce the Scheme; and

(c) what is likely to be the nature of the scheme?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh)** (a) to (c). The Punjab Government intend to introduce a pilot scheme for crop insurance in that State. Details of the scheme are being worked out by them and the final scheme has not so far been received by the Government of India. It is not possible to say at this stage when the scheme would be introduced.

**Time Scale clerks and R.M.S. Sorters**

1466. { Shri Buta Singh:  
Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that time scale clerks and R.M.S. sorters of the P. & T. department are required to pass written and oral tests before they are confirmed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that failure to pass the above tests renders these employees liable for termination of their services reversion to lower grade if they happen to be direct recruit/departmental promotees; and

(c) if so, the total number of such employees (i) whose services have been terminated (ii) who have been reverted to lower grade and (iii) number of Scheduled Castes employees affected in both cases, in the years 1960 and 1961, in all the P. & T. Circles?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. However, in the case of direct recruits, alternative posts in lower grades are offered before their services are terminated. Time-scale clerks and sorters who could not pass the confirmation test within the permissible number of chances and have completed at least 5 years' satisfactory

service in their grade on or before the 12th October, 1961 are as a matter of concession being exempted from the confirmation test if their work and conduct is adjudged as satisfactory. The whole question is being reviewed and in the meantime instructions have been issued that officials should not be reverted or discharged from service for their failure to qualify in the confirmation test.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Welfare Inspectors**

1467. { Shri Buta Singh:  
Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts of Welfare Inspectors and Upper Division Clerks have been created in different P. & T. Circles and Other Units under them since 1957 upto date; and

(b) if so, the total number of posts sanctioned in each P. & T. Circle and the number of posts reserved for the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the above categories?

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The posts will not be filled up centrally. No reservation of any quota is feasible for the posts of Welfare Inspectors because only one post will be filled up in each Circle for the present on the recommendation of Departmental Promotion Committees. The question of the practicability of having the quota on an overall basis is being examined. The posts of Upper Division Clerks were filled up on the basis of—

(i) Direct recruitment.

(ii) Promotion from Lower Division on the basis of a compe-

titive merit test.

- (iii) Selection of staff of subordinate offices on the recommendation of a D.P.C.

The orders of reservation of vacancies for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe apply to (i) and (ii).

The statistical information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### Declaration of Varanasi as 'B' Class City

1468. **Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether from 1st July, 1961 Varanasi has been decided to be classified as 'B' Class City;

(b) whether employees working in District office premises of North East Railway at Varanasi, Manduadi who were getting prescribed rate when Varanasi was a 'C' class city—have since been given the enhanced rates of compensatory (city) allowance or House rent allowance applicable for 'B' Class cities;

(c) whether the employees working in Manduadi Transshipment Yard, office and station of North Eastern Railway have been extended this amenity on par with employees working in Locomotives Workshop there; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Marine Staff on N.F. Railway

1469. **Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Staff in North East Frontier Railway of Vessel even after performing the scheduled 8 hours of duty as per classified Roster by proper authority under Hours of Employment Regulations under Section 71 of Indian Railway Act were deprived of their wages for seven days in 1962 by District Mechanical Engineer (Marine) Pandu;

(b) if so, under what authority; and

(c) what action N.F. Railway administration took when the dispute was represented to them?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) to (c). The Marine staff concerned have been reclassified by the competent authority as 'essentially intermittent' staff who are restored for work for 12 hours a day. The staff did not complete the prescribed hours for about a month in February-March 1962 and as such under the normal procedure, their pay could not be drawn. Subsequently on representations being made on behalf of the staff, the administration has agreed to treat the period of absence as leave due and payment has been made to them accordingly.

#### Employment of Casual Labour on Railways

1470. **Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state on what terms and conditions casual labour is employed on Railways at present?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** Casual labourers are not Railway Servants and as such, no terms and conditions as such are applied to them. Their employment is seasonal and intermittent and they are granted daily rates of pay.