

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative; whether applications from such "patients" will be entertained/or applicants who have passed the test will be appointed if and when suitable vacancies occur?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, at the discretion of Railway medical authorities. The medical examination of candidates or employees is carried out to ensure that they are fit with due regard to the duties and responsibilities of the particular post. Accordingly, a patient who has been operated upon for pneumonectomy would be considered for a sedentary job which would not involve strenuous physical exertion.

Handicapped Children of Railway Employees

2030. Shri Deven Sen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the handicapped children of Railway employees were assured that their applications for employment would be considered very sympathetically by the Railway authorities;

(b) if so, the number of handicapped children who applied for employment after the independence;

(c) the number out of them employed; and

(d) the reasons for not making available adequate job opportunities to the handicapped children of the Railway employees, especially on the Eastern Railway?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above no statistics are being maintained.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Such of those physically handicapped persons as are sponsored by Employment Exchanges under the scheme set up by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, are considered sympathetically for suitable employment on Railways. But no distinction is separately made in favour of the physically handicapped children of Railway employees.

Scientific Grade Standard for Jute

2031. Shri P. G. Sen: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee constituted to evolve scientific grade standards for jute and mesta fibres has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) The Expert Committee was dissolved with the abolition of the Indian Central Jute Committee and the work taken over by the Indian Standards Institution. The report of the ad-hoc working group set up to prepare grade standards is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

Excess Production at Bhilai

2032. Shri Nihal Singh:

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Mudhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether any excess capacity/excess production has occurred in the Rails Producing Section of the Bhilai and other steel plants;

(b) whether he has suggested construction of new lines to reduce stocks piling up with the steel plants;

(c) whether the Ministry has also suggested suspension of the dieselisation programme to enable coal accumulating at pitheads to be disposed off; and

(d) if so, the response of the Railways thereto?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The total rail rolling capacity is of the order of 7,50,000 tonnes per annum while, during 1986-87, the total quantity of rails ordered by the Railways amounted to about 2,33,000 tonnes. The position may not improve during the current financial year unless more resources become available to the Railways to enable them to take up additional construction programmes. Efforts are also being made to export rails.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Railways, however, consider dieselisation necessary in sections where traffic density is too high for steam traction.

Production in Public and Private Sector Steel Plants

2033. Shri Nihal Singh;
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav;
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the public sector and private sector steel plants to increase productivity and to reduce costs;

(b) whether there has been any consultation between the private sector steel plants and public sector units in regard to reducing costs and increasing productivity; and

(c) if so, the improvement effected as a result thereof?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) to (c). Steel Plants in the Private as well as in the Public Sector have either taken or are considering the adoption of a number of steps aimed at increasing productivity and reducing costs. These include preparation of blast furnace burden, injection of

oxygen, fuel oil and/or constant humidity blast in blast furnaces, injection of oxygen as well as oxygen lancing and change over from acid to basic roofs in open hearth furnaces, etc. Formal as well as informal consultations take place between Steel Plants in both the sectors at various levels in the matter of introduction of such technical improvements. Consultations also take place in other matters like adjustment of rolling programme to secure economic loading of the various rolling mills, evolving a uniform wage structure and service conditions for their employees, etc. Some of the technical improvements like sintering have already been introduced in some of the Steel Plants while others are at various stages of appraisal.

Guards Certificate Facility

2034. Shri Nihal Singh;
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Guards Certificate facility is being abused by passengers and Railway employees alike;

(b) whether it is proposed that passengers travelling without ticket but who have informed the Guard, will be charged a certain percentage more than those who travel on regular tickets; and

(c) if so, how much?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Some complaints to this effect have been received.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Employment at Jamalpur Railway Workshop

2035. Shri Kedar Paswan;
Shri Madhu Limaye:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment at Jamalpur workshop has been falling since