

cured mainly through the following agencies:

(i) *Railway Board*: Rolling stock (and some components), rails, bridge girders, imported steel sections, Electrical Signalling equipment, coal, etc.

(ii) *Director General Supplies and Disposals*: Generally all items of stores and equipment valued over Rs. 25,000 (in each case) except for items like non-standard parts and components, building materials, wooden furniture. For this purpose, a list of items handled by that organisation has been circulated by them to the Railways.

(iii) *Chief Controller of Printing & Stationery*: All items of stationery and office appliances.

(iv) *Railway Administrations*: Items not covered by (i), (ii) & (iii) above.

The policy of storing materials on the Railways broadly is that those items which are required for capital works are generally consigned directly to the site of work. The stores arranged for maintenance requirements are kept in the main depots, located adjacent to the railway workshops to facilitate issues, and/or, near to the main market or industrial centres (e.g. Bombay, Calcutta, etc.) to facilitate handling of receipts and distribution. These depots provided with requisite facilities for safe custody and preservation of stores.

Endeavours are made to keep the stocks at an optimum level to prevent "stock outs", as well as avoid unnecessary locking up of capital, risk of deterioration and extra expenses in looking after the holdings.

(b) Steel from Hindustan Steel Ltd. Bhilai, Electrical Equipment from Heavy Electricals (India) Ltd. Bhopal, Coal, Cement, Timber, Lime, Fire Bricks, Fire Clay, Aluminium Conductor Cables, Steel Castings, etc.

(c) (i) Stores Depots at New Katni and Itarsi to keep stock of diesel loco-

motive spares for the up keep of diesel locomotives;

(ii) a Depot at Gwalior to meet the requirements of components and general stores for repairs and maintenance of narrow-gauge rolling stock running on ex-Gwalior State Railway section on Central Railway.

(iii) Depot at Raipur to stock stores for the Galvanising Plant set up for the Railway Electrification Project.

Apprentice Mechanics

2074. Shri S. C. Besra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding the payment of House Rent and City allowance to the Apprentice Mechanics selected through the Service Commission from amongst the permanent regular employees and those drawn from the artisan staff;

(b) the practice followed on the Northern Railway;

(c) whether the Policy is uniformly adopted on different Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) The Allowances are admissible to these staff.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Signal Workshops Staff

2075. Shri S. C. Besra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the normal duties of Block and Signal Inspectors are on line, they are frequently being posted in Signal Workshops on supervisory posts;

(b) whether such postings affect the limited channel of promotion available to the staff of Signal Workshops; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Block and Signal Inspectors are ordinarily confined to work on the line. They are, however, posted in Signal Workshops only on rare occasions as a temporary measure against supervisory posts to cope up with the work; or as in the case of Southern Railway where an entirely new Workshops was built up.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

New Bhopal Textile Mills

2076. Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Bhopal Textile Mills, Ltd., which was taken over by Government in February, 1966, has been closed since 9th July, 1966;

(b) if so, when the same is expected to restart functioning;

(c) the number of workers rendered jobless on account of the closure; and

(d) the compensation/relief paid to them so far?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made by the State Government to re-open the mill.

(c) 1460.

(d) Relief Advance of rupees six lakhs and thirty thousand has been paid out of Provident Fund. No compensation has been paid.

All India Railway Commercial Clerks Association

2077. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from All India Railway Commercial Clerks' Association regarding the revision of their pay scales, withdrawal of the difference between essential and non-essen-

tial clerks, reservation of commercial promotions for the staff, stoppage of periodical transfers etc.; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action on their representation?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) No specification was considered necessary since such grievances are discussed with Organised Labour at the different levels of the Permanent Negotiating Machinery.

All India Guard's Council of Western Railway

2078. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received and considered the representations of the All India Guard's Council of Western Railway regarding the revision of their pay scales, increase in the running allowance, channels of their promotion, provision of quarters etc. from time to time;

(b) whether the then Minister of Railways stated in Parliament on the 24th March, 1966 that these representations would be considered on merits; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on these representations and implemented it?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes; representations have been received from time to time.

(b) Yes, in the Rajya Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 571.

(c) The grievances of guards, which are of general application to all guards and not of Western Railway alone, have been considered in the past and it was not possible to accede to their demands.