

tal Promotion Committee. The strength of gazetted posts in the Department has increased rapidly during the last few years and most of the candidates recommended so far by the U.P.S.C. for appointment have had to continue in newly created posts. It has, therefore, been possible to revert only 5 unapproved Assistant Directors so far.

(c) The cadre of Assistant Director is filled partly by direct recruitment, partly by promotion from the lower grades and partly by deputation. In respect of posts falling in the direct recruitment quota at present held by unapproved officers, further requisitions have been sent to the U.P.S.C. Certain questions connected with departmental promotion to the grade of Assistant Director have been settled recently in consultation with the U.P.S.C., and unapproved officers at present holding posts in the promotion quota will be replaced by candidates approved by the Departmental Promotion Committee at its next meeting. Action has also been taken to obtain officers on deputation for posts required to be filled by deputationists.

Catering on Baroda Division

2225. { Shri Bade:
 { Shri U. M. Trivedi:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether co-operative society of hawkers and employees of contractors of railway caterers have applied for licences for catering on the railway stations in Baroda division;

(b) whether this request of the society has been turned down and preference has been given to private caterers who are benamidars for rich persons; and

(c) whether Government will enunciate the exact policy in the granting of these licences?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz

Khan): (a) to (c). As per extant orders, Railways are required to allot at one or two stations as an experimental measure catering/vending contracts to co-operative societies which are almost entirely composed of actual workers, i.e. vendors, cooks etc. On the Western Railway, 2 such Co-operative Societies are running contracts at Phulera and at Marwar stations.

In response to Western Railway's notification for running an additional trolley at Baroda station, a number of applications were received including one from Railway Vendors and Workers Co-operative Society Ltd., which is reported to have 30 members. The licence for the trolley was granted by the Railway to another existing contractor, at the same station.

Holiday Home in Pahalgam

2226. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been purchased at Pahalgam, Kashmir by his Ministry for a holiday home;

(b) if so, at what price; and

(c) the name of the person from whom land has been purchased?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

No land was purchase at Pahalgam, Kashmir, for the Holiday Home for non-gazetted Railway servants as the land (a little over 5 acres in area) was provided free of cost on 99 years' lease by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for a nominal annual payment of Re. 1. The Railways had to pay for the actual cost of a building under construction on the land. All this was made clear in the speech of the Minister for Railways while introducing the Railway Budget for