

(b) whether Government have instituted an inquiry into these charges and *bona-fide* of these donations; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken to protect the shareholders ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-615/68]

मिराज-लाटूर रेलवे लाइन

5324. श्री मधु लिमये : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को कोई ऐसा ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुआ है जिसमें यह प्रार्थना की गई हो कि पूना-मिराज रेलवे लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदल दिये जाने के परिणामस्वरूप हटाई गई रेल की पटरियों को प्रयोग में लाकर दक्षिण-मध्य रेलवे में मिराज-लाटूर छोटी लाइन को मीटर गेज लाइन में बदल दिया जाये; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री चे० सु० पुनाचा) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) छोटी लाइन के इस खंड को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का कोई औचित्य नहीं है ।

REPRESENTATION FROM KUTCH SALT MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

5325. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation of/from the Kutch Salt Manufacturers' Association about giving the indents of Small Salt Manufacturers priority over salt merchants and agents at the loading points at Gandhidham, Bhimasar, Chirai, etc; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The railways as public carriers cannot make any distinction as between Small Salt Manufacturers and Salt Merchants or agents in the matter of either acceptance of indents or allotment of wagons. The allotment of wagons is mainly governed by the class of priority to which the traffic is entitled and the date of registration. Salt programmed by the Salt Commissioner and approved by the Railway Board moves in priority class 'C', the salt as raw material for industries in priority class 'D' and all other salt in priority class 'E', the relative order of these priorities being in the alphabetical order.

During the period Dec. '67 to March '68 (upto 10th) 3455 wagons of salt were loaded on Gandhidham section as against 1957 wagons during the corresponding period of last year.

ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES

5326. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made some Vollerath Plan for engineering industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). An agreement was signed between the Governments of India and the Federal Republic of Germany in New Delhi on 14th December 1967 providing for technical assistance from that country in promoting exports of Indian engineering goods to West European countries including Germany. The scheme is popularly called "Vollerath Plan" after the name of its author. A copy of the Agreement which gives details of the scheme has already been placed in the Parliament Library.

DETENTION OF MADURAI BOUND RAMESWARAM PASSENGER TRAIN

5327. SHRI KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madurai-bound Rameswaram Passenger Train was detained by students at Silaiman Station near Madurai in February, 1968;

(b) if so, what are their grievances; and

(c) the action taken to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The students had protested against the train running with five bogies instead of the normal composition of seven bogies.

(c) The composition of this train had to be reduced to mobilise coaches to meet the demands of mela traffic on the occasion of Mahamakham festival at Kumbakonam during February, 1968. The normal composition of seven bogies has since been restored.

MINES UNDER CONTROL OF RAJA OF RAMGARH IN BIHAR

5328. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) how many mines are under the control of ex-Raja of Ramgarh in Bihar;

(b) whether Government plan to nationalize those mines; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). The required information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

SAMASTIPUR-JAYANAGAR RAILWAY LINE

5329. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have completely given up the idea of extending the broad gauge line from Samastipur to Jayanagar and reopening

the Railway lines from Nirmali to Supaul; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

LEAVE RESERVE IN SIGNAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION BRANCH

5330. SHRI K. K. NAYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a failure to maintain the requisite strength for leave reserves and Rest-givers in the various categories in the Signal and Telecommunication Branch of the Indian Railways; and

(b) whether the staff in these categories often fail to secure leave and rest in time ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, except for administrative reasons and on occasions such as during marriage season, important festivals etc., it may not be feasible to grant leave/rest to all at the same time.

CADRES OF SIGNAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION STAFF

5331. SHRI K. K. NAYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many Divisions in the various zones of the Indian Railways maintain their own designations of various cadres of the Signal and Telecommunication staff with the result that two employees performing equivalent services in two regions are known in the respective regions by different designations;

(b) whether such a distinction in designations is likely to mislead the authorities in regard to the salaries and other perquisites of the jobs concerned; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to end these disparities by standardisation of designations and if so, when ?