

(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 ?