

around Calcutta has increased considerably; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb this to ensure safe movement of trains and for prevention of damage to railway tracks ?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above. As soon as encroachments are detected, prompt action is taken to issue quit notices failing which action under the Public Premises (Eviction of unauthorised occupants) Act, 1958 is resorted to.

Recruitment of Ticket Examiners

9066. SHRI SUBRAVELU :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that economy has been effected in the recruitment to the cadres of Ticket Examiners ; and

(b) if so, the likely loss of revenue due to increase in ticketless travel ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Economy in the cadre of Ticket Examiners has been made wherever feasible.

(b) Any economy that has been effected is without detriment to the efficiency in checking of ticketless travel.

Scales of Pay of Trainee Assistant Station Masters and Permanent Station Masters

9067. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI KAMALANATHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the scales of pay of trainee Assistant Station Masters and Permanent Station Masters ;

(b) whether there is considerable disparity in their scales of pay ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) to (c). A trainee Assistant Station Master during training gets a stipend at the rate of Rs. 130 p.m. and on his posting to a working post, he gets a starting pay of Rs. 150 p.m. in the Authorised scale of Rs. 130-240. The scales of pay for Assistant Station Masters and Stations Masters are :

Assistant Station Masters

Rs. 130-240 (with a minimum start of Rs. 150)

Rs. 205-280

Rs. 250-380

Rs. 335-425

Station Masters

Rs. 205-280

Rs. 250-380

Rs. 335-425

Rs. 370-475

Rs. 450-575 (Station Superintendent—
Non-gazetted)

The trainee Assistant Station Masters get stipend only during the training and Station Masters draw pay in the regular scales of pay. There are two different categories and thus a comparison between them is not apt.

Manning of Trains by Travelling Ticket Examiners

9068. SHRI KAMALANATHAN :
SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI DEIVEEKAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains, Division-wise, which are not manned by the Travelling Ticket Examiners ; and

(b) the reasons for not manning some trains by Travelling Ticket Examiners ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). Statistics regarding the number of trains Division-wise which are not manned by Travelling Ticket Examiners, are not maintained. Out of a total number of about 4,950 trains run per day on the Indian Railways, which include Mail/Express, Passenger and Suburban trains, only important trains are manned by Travelling Ticket Examiners. On all other passenger carry-

ing trains, frequent checks are exercised either by Travelling Ticket Examiners in rotation or these trains are checked by Divisional/Headquarters Flying Squads of Travelling Ticket Examiners.

Railway Engineers of Railway Electrification Scheme

9069. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign country has sought to utilise the skill of our Railway Engineers ;

(b) if so, the names of countries which are willing to engaged our skilled personnel of the Railway Electrification Scheme ; and

(c) if not, the efforts made by Government to achieve it ?

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

(b) No country has made any such request so far.

(c) Requests for such assistance are generally received through the Ministry of External Affairs and are responded to promptly and sympathetically.

Purchase of Coal by Public Sector Undertakings

9070. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state how much of public sector requirements of coal are purchased from (i) privately owned collieries, and (ii) National Coal Development Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : After decontrol of coal all consumers including public sector undertakings obtain their coal requirements direct from the producers. As such information about the quantity of coal purchased by the Public Sector undertakings from the privately owned collieries is not available.

In so far as the National Coal Development Corporation is concerned, during 1967-68 it supplied about 8.10 million tonnes of coal to Public Sector under-

takings, including State Electricity Boards ; Railways and Steel Plants.

New Railway Station at Kachra

9071. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the local inhabitants of Kachra between Haroa Road and Maltipur on the Eastern Railway (Sealdah Division) have been requesting Government to sanction a new station there ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) and (b). No representation has been received from the local inhabitants of Kachra for the opening of a new station there. However a proposal for the opening of a halt station at Mirzanagar—Kankra between Harua Road and Malatipur stations was examined but it could not be accepted for want of adequate justification.

N.C.D.C Mines

9072. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the demurrage and other penalties paid by the National Coal Development Corporation mines on transportation of coal during the last year ;

(b) whether such payments are considered abnormal and how they compare with such average payments by coal industry in the private sector ; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the incidence of demurrage ?

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

Coal Industry

9073. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention