

(c) whether any separate Branch has been formed in the Railway Board's office to safeguard the concessions and privileges of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees; and

(d) whether any proposal has been received by Government for taking the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representatives as members of the Selection Board?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes. The section is still in existence.

(b) The post of Officer on Special Duty is not in existence now, but the work is done by one of the officers of the Establishment Directorate. The duties of the said officer were to look after the interests of Scheduled Castes/Tribes on the Railways and to ensure proper implementation of Labour Laws.

(c) Refer reply to (a) above.

(d) Suggestions to this effect have been received from some quarters.

डाक/एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियों के साथ तीसरी श्रेणी के डिब्बों को जोड़ना

4658. श्री बंश नारायण सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि डाक तथा एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियों के साथ तीसरी श्रेणी के कम डिब्बे जोड़े जाते हैं जिसके कारण उनमें यात्रियों को स्थान नहीं मिलता है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, क्या इन गाड़ियों में तीसरी श्रेणी के और अधिक डिब्बे जोड़ने का सरकार का विचार है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री चे० सु० पुनाचा) :

(क) और (ख). डाक/एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों में तीसरे दर्जे के कितने डिब्बे लगाये जायें, यह इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि तीसरे

दर्जे और और दर्जों में कितना और किस प्रकार का यातायात होता है तथा सम्बन्धित गाड़ियों में कुल कितने डिब्बे लगाने की अनुमति है ।

CONSTRUCTION OF CULVERTS ON RAILWAY TRACK BETWEEN MADHOSINGH AND MIRZAPUR GHAT (N.E. RAILWAY)

4659. SHRI BANSH NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the level of railway track between Madhosingh and Mirzapur Ghat on the North Eastern Railway in Varanasi District is 5 to 9 feet higher than the ground surface which resulted in inundation of 30-40 villages during the monsoons last year;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider construction of 10 additional culverts on this line to obviate inundation; and

(c) if so, how long it would take to construct these culverts?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). The height of the railway bank between Madhosingh and Mirzapur Ghat Stations varies from 6 to 12 feet. There is no proposal to provide additional waterways in the section as eleven bridges and culverts and two causeways already exist, which are considered adequate. The Railway Administration is not aware of inundation of 30-40 villages during the monsoons last year.

(c) Does not arise.

RUPEE PAYMENT TRADE

4660. SHRI K. M. Koushik: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the rupee payment agreements and the devaluation of our rupee, the country has been losing to the tune of 57 per cent both on our exports and imports;