

(5) Maharashtra Regional Advisory Board for Salt.

(6) Rajasthan Regional Advisory Board for Salt.

(c) The above Boards were last reconstituted on 14-6-1968 and no expenditure has been incurred so far after 14-6-68. The average annual expenditure incurred on these Boards in the past is as under:—

Central Advisory Board: Rs. 2700.

All Regional Advisory Boards Rs. 2800.

(d) The functions of the Boards are as under:—

*Central Advisory Board for Salt:*

To advise the Government of India on the administration of the proceeds of the Salt Cess levied under Section 3 of the Salt Cess Act, 1953 and to make recommendations generally for measures conducive to the development of salt Industry e.g.:—

- (i) Establishment and Maintenance of Research Stations, model farms and Salt Factories;
- (ii) Fixing the grades of salt and improving its quality;
- (iii) Development of exports;
- (iv) Promoting and encouraging Cooperative efforts among manufacturers of Salt
- (v) Promoting the welfare of Labour employed in the Salt Industry; and
- (vi) Any other matter pertaining to the development of salt Industry; and

*Regional Advisory Boards for Salt:*

To make recommendations on similar lines to the Central Advisory Board for Salt in so far as their respective regions are concerned.

**Railway Medical Officers' Association**

1665. SHRI VISHWANATH PANDEY; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 242 on the 2nd June, 1967 and state:

(a) the further steps taken to fulfil the demands of Railways Medical Officers' Associations; and

(b) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons for the delays?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) and (b). A major revision of the status, scales of pay, non-practising allowance etc. of Railway Assistant Surgeons was made with effect from 1-1-1966, in conformity with what had been done for the Central Health Service, when as many as 1400 Assistant Surgeons were upgraded from the Class III scale of Rs. 335-650 to the Class II scale of Rs. 350-900. Thereafter the service conditions of Railway Doctors have been further improved as under:—

(i) In consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, it has been provided in the Recruitment Rules for Assistant Medical Officers in grade Rs. 350-900 (Class II) that 25 per cent of vacancies in this grade should be filled by promotion of the existing Licentiate Assistant Surgeons in grade Rs. 335-650 (Class III).

(ii) Four more permanent Junior Administrative grade posts (Rs.1300-1800 plus special pay of Rs. 100/-) of Medical Superintendents have been created on the Railways.

(iii) The existing promotion quota of 33-1/3 per cent reserved for Assistant Medical Officers in grade Rs. 350-900 (Class II) for their promotion to the posts of Divisional Medical Officers in grade Rs. 700-1300 (Class I) has been increased to 50 per cent

In addition, some more proposals are currently under considerations to improve the promotion prospects of Railway Doctors.

#### Complaints Cell at Rail Bhawan

1666. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDHEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has set-up a Complaints' Cell at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi to deal with the complaints, grievances and suggestions of the public;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the number of complaints, grievances and suggestions received so far and against whom; and

(d) action taken thereon?

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

(b) The Complaints' Cell, in the office of the Railway Board at Rail-Bhawan, has been functioning since the 11th of August, 1964.

(c) The total number of complaints, grievances and suggestions received in the Complaints' Cell at Rail Bhawan from 11-8-1964 to 30-6-1968 is:

(i) No. of grievances received through the Sanyukta Sadachar Samiti and through the Additional Secretary and Commissioner for Public Grievances | Ministry of Home Affairs . . . . . 369.

(ii) No. of complaints and suggestions directly and otherwise received by the Complaints' Cell . . . . . 8771

These complaints are generally not directed against specific employees of the Railways.

(d) All the complaints, grievances and suggestions received in the Com-

plaints' Cell are dealt with in the concerned Directorates in the Railway Board's office.

#### Trivandrum-Cape Comorin-Tirunelveli Railway Line.

1667. SHRI P. VISWAMBHARAN: SHRI MANGLATHUMADOM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigations regarding Trivandrum-Cape-Comoria Tirunelveli Railway line are complete;

(b) if so, the total estimated cost of this line; and

(c) when Government propose to start construction of this line?

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

(b) About Rs. 8.6 crores.

(c) The investigations have revealed that the line is not likely to be remunerative. Consideration of this project has therefore been deferred till such time indications about further developments in the region consequent on the development of the Tuticorin Port become available.

#### Indian Exports

1668. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total exports during the year 1967-68 were only Rs. 1,199 crores against the total imports of Rs. 2,000 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exports during the year 1965-66, i.e. the pre-devaluation year, had totalled Rs. 1,289 crores;