

Art Colleges for Railway Employees in Southern Railway

2507. SHRI KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether It is a fact that the Railway Employees in the Southern Railway who are frequently transferred find difficulty in getting admission for their children in local Arts Colleges ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to start arts colleges in some important centres so as to help the Railway employees ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start Arts Colleges at Perampur, Golden Rock and Podanur Railway Colonies in the Southern Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) No representation from the transferrable Railway staff has been received about the difficulties in seeking admissions in the Arts Colleges.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Catering

2508. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:
SHRI SHRI CHAND
GOYAL :
SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of food served by railway catering is going down deplorably, irrespective of the fact that prices have almost doubled recently ; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that railway caters to the taste of the travelling public with purity and dignity ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) The rates of meals and refreshments have been increased whenever found absolutely necessary to avoid losses due to increasing prices of raw materials and rising staff costs. The fact that the complaints in regard to catering establishments were on the decline in 1968 as compared to 1967,

would indicate that the quality has not deteriorated. There is however no complacency in this matter and a constant watch is being kept.

(b) The measures taken to improve the quality of food and standard of services in the Railway Catering are.

- (i) tightening up of supervision in regard to purchase and supply of good quality raw materials, laying down proper schedules for preparations, recruitment of competent cooks and training of catering staff in the culinary art in Departmentally managed units ;
- (ii) intensification of inspections in all catering establishments.

Loss to Durgapur Steel Plant

2509. SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd. incurred loss this year also ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such continued loss and the steps taken to improved its conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) It is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd. is expected to incur a loss this year also.

(b) The loss is mainly due to lower production on account of the following :—

- (1) Labour troubles ;
- (2) Break-down of Coke Oven Battery No. I and
- (3) Shortage of VIC Cranes at Blooming Mill and failure of one of the existing VIC Cranes.

All efforts are being made to undertake and expedite the required repairs and maintenance jobs. One VIC Crane is expected to be available after renovation by the end of 1969 and another is expected to be acquired by the end of 1970-71. The Contract for the re-building of Coke Oven Battery No. I is expected to be finalised