

period of break in service caused by participation in political activities during the British period, for the purposes of seniority and promotion;

(b) if so, whether any discretionary power has been given to the Heads of Departments to ignore the claims of any category of political sufferers for such benefits; and

(c) if not, why discrimination has been shown in the case of the Acting President of the All India Railway Ministerial Staff Association, Izatnagar Branch, who has been denied the benefits even before the independence of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) Yes.

(b) Instructions were issued in 1949 prescribing guidelines for grant of benefits to political sufferers in terms of which the Railway administrations can dispose of claims themselves.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

PAYMENT OF DIFFERENT PRICES AND RATES TO WAGON BUILDERS

5049. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had agreed to pay different prices and rates to wagon builders for the year 1969-70;

(b) if so, whether any wagon builder offered to supply more wagons at cheaper prices as compared to rates to be paid to the other wagon builders; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of wagons for which orders have been placed on each supplier is far less and that the wagon builders have been paid lower prices, in spite of the fact that a large number of wagons were supplied in a short time to a foreign country ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Orders placed on the individual wagon builders are considered to be adequate on the basis of their actual perfor-

mance in the recent past. The prices of wagons were determined after receiving offers from the wagon builders and negotiating the same with them. The prices offered are considered reasonable.

CLOSURE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED UNDER COMPANIES ACT

5050. SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Companies registered under the Companies Act, which ceased functioning during the last year and also during the current year, so far; and

(b) the reasons for their closure ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) Five hundred and seventy-two companies ceased to function during 1968 and 321 during ten months of the current year viz. January, 1969 to October, 1969.

(b) The information about the reasons for closure for such a large number of companies is not readily available.

IMPROVEMENT OF MANGALORE RAILWAY STATION

5051. SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans for the enlargement and improvement of the Mangalore Railway Station to coincide with the Mangalore Harbour Project and the Hasen-Mangalore line; and

(b) if the overhead bridges are not constructed, whether it is possible to have a common platform at the end of the lines ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) The following metre gauge facilities are proposed at Mangalore in connection with the Hassan-Mangalore new line;

(i) Passenger lines—2 Nos. with platform faces (one Mixed Gauge and one Metre Gauge line).