

the capacity of the plant/equipment etc. to produce 2.5 million tonnes of ingot steel.

Increase in Licence fee of Refreshment Contractors

3130. SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence fee of the Refreshment contractors has been increased as per the recommendations of the Parimal Ghosh Committee ;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations ; and

(c) whether the increase in the licence fee includes electricity, water charges and rent also ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). In regard to revision of licence fee for catering/vending contracts, the Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee, 1967, under the chairmanship of Shri Parimal Ghosh had made the following recommendation :—

“The Committee are of the view that the wide disparities now existing in the levy of licence fees on the various Railways are due to the absence of uniformity and recommend that some uniformity be introduced immediately. After taking the various factors into consideration they also feel that licence fees should not exceed 5% of the turnover which should be assessed periodically with all possible precision by the Railway Administrations concerned.”

This recommendation was accepted by the Government and instructions were issued to the Zonal Railways on 30-5-68 which are in various stages of implementation on the different Railways. While in cases, in which the present level of licence fees are very low, the revision might involve an increase, in other cases it is likely to result in reduction of the existing licence fees.

(c) No.

Running Allowance for Railway Staff attached to Rajdhani Express

3131. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajdhani Express reached Delhi on Saturdays and starts back for Howrah on the same day after an interval of a few hours ;

(b) if so, whether the staff, who put in more than 36 hours continuous duty with a brief interval during which also some duties are assigned to them, are compensated with additional allowance ;

(c) if not, the reasons why they are not treated liberally and compensated for ; and

(d) the reasons why they are not given running allowance ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Issue of tickets to passengers of Rajdhani Express

3112. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff of the Rajdhani Express has no orders to issue tickets to last-minute passengers, even though some seats are going vacant ; and

(b) if so, whether Government would modify its rules so as to ensure that seats do not go vacant when last-minute or waiting list passengers are available ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). Arrangements exist both at Howrah and New Delhi railway stations for issuing tickets to passengers till 5 minutes before the scheduled time of departure of the Rajdhani Express. This is the minimum time requir-