

the cumulative loss as at the end of March, 1970 was Rs. 32,1 crores (the figures are exclusive of the Fertilizer plant of Rourkela Steel plant). It is anticipated that with improvement in production, the balance of the accumulated loss would also be wiped off. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the number of years it would take to wipe off the loss.

Introduction of a new Product in Rourkela Steel Plant for Manufacture of Electrical Machinery

4694. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce in Rourkela Steel plant a new product called "cold rolled grain-oriented sheets", which is a high grade plate needed for the manufacture of electrical machinery; and

(b) if so, the name of the country with which collaboration talk are being held and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to take up production of 'cold rolled grain oriented sheets' at Rourkela Steel plant with foreign collaboration. It will not be in the public interest to disclose further details at this stage, as the matter is still at the negotiation stage.

Recruitment, Confirmation and Promotion of Temporary Officers on Indian Railways

4695. SHRI DEVEN SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of temporary officers recruited by the Railways in various Departments uptill 1967;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is very little scope of confirmation and/or promotion

for these temporary officers from junior scale to senior scale and from senior scale to the administrative scales, as their seniority is reckoned from the date of their confirmation and not from the date of their entry in service;

(c) the percentage of the temporary officers promoted from junior scale to senior scale or to the administrative scale, and the percentage of such officers who have been confirmed;

(d) whether it is also a fact that both the Kunzru Committee and the Administrative Reforms Commission have recommended the abolition of the discrimination between the Class I Officers and the temporary officers by designating the latter as extension to the permanent cadre; and

(e) if so, the action taken by this Ministry on this recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) 1089.

(b) Temporary Assistant Officers are eligible for consideration for permanent appointment to Class I by the Departmental Promotion Committee of the Union Public Service Commission against an annual quota of vacancies. On permanent appointment, they are under extant rules, given a weightage for seniority to the extent of half the number of years of service rendered by them in a working post, subject to a maximum of five years.

(c) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Special Pay to Wireless Operators Working on Radio Teleprinters

4696. SHRI C. CHITTYBABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the adjudicator has invariably classified both Wireless Operators and Signallers working on heavy circuits as arduous and those working on light circuits as less arduous taking the circuit capacity into account without any discrimination;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Signallers working on Teleprinters are paid special pay purely for their additional qualifica-

tions in typing and not otherwise as per Board letter No. PC 69/SP 1/STS dated 16th December, 1969 and on the contrary a directly recruited teleprinter operator is not eligible for any special pay since he does not possess additional qualifications in more working ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the wireless operators possess requisite additional qualifications as stated in Board letter No. PC 69/SP 1/STS dated 16th December, 1969 and work on Teleprinters for more than 10 days in a month ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not granting them Special pay for working on Radio Teleprinters ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) No.

(b) No. A special pay of Rs. 15/- per month is granted to the Signallers when employed as Tele-printer Operators for they were not recruited to work as teleprinter operators. Type writing work is inherent in the teleprinting service. The Tele-printer Operators recruited directly are not granted any special pay.

(c) and (d). Wireless Operators rendered surplus due to installation of microwave are utilised as Tele-printer Operators. Their scale of pay is Rs. 150-300, which is considerably higher than those of the Signallers with special pay, namely Rs. 110-200 or 150-240. In fact, their existing pay as Wireless Operators has been protected without a fall.

Non-payment of special pay to Signallers on the utilisation of Wireless Operators on Microwave Teleprinters (Southern Railway)

4697. SHRI C. CHITTYBABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) how many wireless operators would have been rendered surplus if they were not deployed on Microwave Teleprinters on Southern Railway ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Wireless Operators on Southern Railway are deployed

on Microwave Teleprinters since they are only competent vide GM/MAS No. P (RT) 469/III/363 and not because they were rendered surplus to requirements ;

(c) how many Signallers were deprived of special pay for working on Teleprinters consequent on the utilisation of wireless operators on Microwave Teleprinters on Southern Railway ;

(d) whether it is a fact that Signallers only operate at Hubli and Bezwada on Microwave Teleprinters links established between Hubli/Madras and Bezwada/Madras : and

(e) if so, the reasons for not following similar procedure on Southern Railway also ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Special pay to Signallers Working on Teleprinters on Southern Railway

4698. SHRI C. CHITTYBABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Signallers working on Teleprinters on the Central Railway are paid 10 per cent of pay as special pay ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for reducing the emoluments of the Signallers working on Teleprinters on Southern Railway from 1st February, 1968 ;

(c) whether it is also fact that the Signallers working on Teleprinters on Southern Railway were paid 10 per cent of pay as Special Pay vide Board's letter No. E (S) 1-57/TRB 30 dated 31st December, 1957 ;

(d) whether Government are aware that by payment of Rs. 15/- at flat rate the emoluments of the incumbents enjoyed over 10 years even after the implementation of Second Pay Commission's recommendations were reduced ; and