

(c) and (d). The equipments could not be operated during April to July, 1991 due to shortage of staff. They are being operated now.

[*Translation*]

Pay Scales of Group 'A' & 'B' Employees in Railways

5464. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA

MALIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on May 5, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 8305 and on April 28, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 7567 and state:

(a) whether the First Pay Commission had recommended abolition of the cadre of Group 'B' (lower gazetted services) in case it may not be possible to differentiate between junior pay-scales and posts of Assistant grade officers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to remove the disparity in pay scales of Group 'A' and Group 'B'; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The first Pay Commission had considered the question of amalgamation of Class I and Class II (subsequently designated as Group 'A' & 'B'). The majority of the members of this Commission were of view that it was desirable to retain the two classes and had recommended amalgamation only in those departments where the differentiation was not necessary or possible, either because of the mode of recruitment or because of the difficulty of distinguishing between the importance and responsibility of the duties performed by Class I & II Officer.

2. This issue has also been considered subsequently by the Second, Third & Fourth

Central Pay Commissions, who had not found any justification for such a merger, as the Group 'B' (Class II) posts mainly serve as promotional avenues for Group 'C' posts, whereas Group 'A' junior Scale posts are essentially for undergoing in-service training and for acquiring experience for occupying higher posts in the cadre. The Ministries/ Departments therefore continue to have separate scales for Group 'A' and Group 'B'. No change is contemplated in this position.

Group 'B' Officers in Railways

5465, SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the department-wise and railway unit-wise and category-wise actual number of Group 'A' and 'B' officers working in the Railways against the sanctioned posts as on March 31, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

New Coal Deposits

5466. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some more coal deposits have been found in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal likely to be extracted annually from the new mines, location-wise; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) Coal exploration is continuously being carried out in the various parts of the country with a view to locating new coal deposits as well as detailed proving of the known coalfields for the purpose of planning of new mines. As on 1st January 1991, coal