

(a) whether a number of general coaches are being reduced in the Superfast and Express trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that hundreds of passengers are not able to get reservation in Bihar bound trains from Delhi everyday; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Some passengers do remain on waiting list in Bihar bound trains from Delhi.

(c) Besides introducing a bi-weekly train between Delhi and Muzaffarpur in the current year, the loads of existing trains are also being augmented depending upon the availability of coaches, operational feasibility and traffic justification.

[Translation]

Training of Railway officers Abroad

5256. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any provision for training/studies abroad for the officers working in Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the criteria for selection;

(c) the number of doctors sent to Australia from the Department of Medicines, Western Railways in April 1996, for attending 'Hospital Business Management' course;

(d) whether the officers after their training are bound to work at North East Frontier Railway;

(e) if so, the period for which they have to work there;

(f) whether this rule is strictly complied with; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suitable officers who fulfil the condition laid down by donor agencies or are involved in the project/machinery/equipment related activities are nominated bases on their suitability-cum-seniority and weightage is given to the performance of officers during last five years.

(c) Two;

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[English]

Consultative Committees

5257. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue various consultative and other committees constituted by Railways; and

(b) if so, the details of such committees proposed for discontinuance and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The National Railway Users' Consultative Council (NRUCC), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCC) & Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) were dissolved w.e.f. 2.4.1998/ Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees have been re-constituted for a two year term w.e.f. 1.7.1998. National Railway Users' Consultative Council will be reconstituted shortly after these two other committees become functional.

Lime Stone Mining

5258. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Hindu" dated May 11, 1998 under the caption, "Lime Stone Mining Contractors defying SC Order";

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(c) the details of stern action proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Railway Sports Promotion Board

5259. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Sports Promotion Board has been set up by the Government;

(b) if so, the details and function thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Railways will identify and adopt the talented teenagers who do not have any national and international status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the Indian Railways will contribute for the promotion of sports in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The existing Railway Sports Control Board is being renamed as Railway Sports Promotion Board.

(b) The existing functions and features will largely remain unchanged.

(c) to (e) As per the new policy, recruitment in sports quota for such sports persons will be through advertisements in order to ensure greater transparency in the recruitment process.

Sports persons, once recruited, will be provided a congenial environment and opportunities to develop their skills.

Revised Pension Scheme for Defence Forces

5260. SHRI K.S.RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the revised pension scheme for the defence forces;

(b) whether the aforesaid scheme is totally in conformity with recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission;

(c) if not, the details of the variations and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether all the defence pensioners, irrespective of their date of retirement, are covered by the revised pension scheme;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the revised pension scheme also fulfils long outstanding demand of 'one rank one pension' of the defence pensioners; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

(d) Yes Sir. But those who retired before 1.1.1996 will not get total parity in pension with those who retire after 1.1.96

(e) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended parity in pension of pre and post 1.1.1986 only which has been already implemented.'

(f) No Sir.

(g) The Fifth Central Pay Commission which examined the demand of "one rank one pension" has not recommended the same.

Statement

The salient features of the revised pension scheme for the Defence Forces are as under:-

- (i) Retiring pension for officers will be calculated at 50% of average emoluments drawn during last 10 months and for Personnel Below Officer Rank at 50% of the highest classification pay appropriate to the pay grants/rank held at the time of discharge for qualifying service of 33 years.
- (ii) The minimum period of qualifying service for retiring pension will be 20 years for officers and 15 years for PBOR.
- (iii) Weightage for the purpose of calculation of pension will be 5 years for PBOR and between 3 to 9 years for Commissioned officers.
- (iv) The minimum period of qualifying service for earning retiring/service gratuity will be 10 years (without weightage) in the case of Commissioned officers and 5 years (without weightage) in the case of PBOR. The gratuity will be admissible at a uniform rate of 1/2 month emoluments for each completed six monthly period of qualifying service. This will be subject to a maximum of 161/2 times of emoluments.
- (v) The minimum pension will not be less than Rs. 1275/- p.m. and the maximum pension will not exceed 50% of the highest pay in Govt. which is Rs. 30,000/- since 1.1.96.
- (vi) The ordinary family pension shall be paid at a uniform rate of 30% of emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs.1275/- p.m.
- (vii) Commutation of pension will be allowed @43% for officers and 45% for PBOR as hitherto fore.