

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Pension Scheme for Loco Staff of
Indian Railways

*327. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision about a pension scheme for Loco staff of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof together with the broad outlines of benefits which the staff will receive as a result thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this scheme will be an improvement on the Central Provident fund system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) to (c). The Pension Scheme in vogue on Indian Railways covers all categories of Railway employees including Loco Staff.

Railway servants appointed on or after 16.11.1957 are pensionable. Those appointed earlier were governed by Provident Fund rules but have been given repeated options to be governed by Pension Rules. The current eighth option is open for six months from 23rd July, 1974.

The salient features of the pensionary benefits admissible to permanent Railway servants who quit service on retirement or invalidment are briefly summarised below:—

A Railway servant who quits service before completion of 10 years qualifying service is granted a lump sum Service gratuity at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ month's emoluments for every completed six monthly period of service for the first four years and $\frac{3}{8}$ th month's emoluments for every six monthly

period thereafter upto a qualifying service of $9\frac{1}{2}$ years.

A Railway servant who quits service after he has completed 10 years of qualifying service is entitled to a monthly pension. The pension is calculated at the rate of $\frac{1}{180}$ th of the average emoluments, drawn during the last three years of service, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 2,500 per month, for each completed half yearly period of service not exceeding 66. The Maximum amount of pension is limited to Rs. 1000 per month. In respect of Railway servants who retire on invalid pension, however, the amount of invalid pension shall not be less than the amount of the family pension at ordinary rates mentioned hereunder.

Every Railway servant, irrespective of the length of qualifying service rendered by him, is entitled to a lump sum death-cum-retirement-gratuity. This is earned at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the emoluments drawn immediately before retirement for each completed six monthly period of his service subject to a maximum of $16\frac{1}{2}$ months emoluments limited to Rs. 30,000. However, if he dies while in service, the death-cum-retirement-gratuity is granted at an enhanced rate, as shown below:—

Length of qualifying service	Death gratuity
Not more than 1 year	2 months' emoluments.
More than 1 year but less than 5 years.	6 months' emoluments
5 years and above.	$\frac{1}{4}$ th of emoluments for each completed six-monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of $16\frac{1}{2}$ times the emoluments and a minimum of 12 times the emoluments, but not exceeding Rs. 30,000

Temporary employees who quit service on superannuation or permanent incapacity or reduction in establishment or die in service are granted a terminal/death gratuity at the following rates—

Completed years of service at the time of quitting service.	Terminal gratuity	Death gratuity
One year or more but less than 3 years	Nil	1 month's pay
3 years or more but less than 5 years.	Half a month's pay for each completed year of service in excess of 3 years' service.	3 month's pay
5 years or more but less than 10 years.	One month's pay for the first 3 completed years' service plus half a month's pay for each subsequent completed year's service.	4 months' pay.
10 years or more	One month's pay for each completed year of service subject to a maximum of Rs. 12,000.	One month's pay for each completed year of service, subject to a maximum of 12 months' pay or Rs. 12,000 whichever is less.

The Railways also have a family pension scheme which is applicable to both permanent and temporary employees borne on pensionable establishments. Under this scheme, family pension is admissible in the case of death of Railway servant while in service or even after retirement, provided he had completed a minimum of one year's service. The amount of family pension admissible is as under—

Pay of the Railway servant	Amount of family pension per mensem
Below Rs. 400	30% of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs 60 and a maximum of Rs. 100.
Rs. 400 and above but below Rs. 1200.	15% of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 100 and a maximum of Rs. 160.
Rs. 1200 and above.	12% of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 160 and a maximum of Rs. 250.

In case an employee dies after having rendered a minimum of 7 years service, the family pension is paid at an enhanced rate so as to be equal to 50 per cent of the last pay drawn or twice the family pension, whichever is less, for a maximum period of 7 years or the age of 65 years, had he survived, whichever is earlier. Thereafter the family pension is payable at the ordinary rate only. The scheme is contributable and every employee governed by it is required to surrender a portion of his gratuity, if admissible, representing two months' emoluments subject to a maximum of Rs 5000/-

The Pension Scheme was introduced on the Railways as a result of representations from, and on behalf of Railway labour which were also voiced in the Parliament, and in consideration of its social security aspect.

It is, however, not possible to make a strict comparison of the benefits under the Pension Scheme on the one hand and the Contributory Provident Fund Scheme on the other as these

are two distinct schemes of retirement benefits with their own advantages and disadvantages.

Earnings from Perunguzhi Halt during the last two years

*331. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
KADANNAPALLI
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI,

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) the earnings of Railways from the Perunguzhi halt during the last year and how does it compare with the income of the preceding two years,

(b) whether the present earnings from this halt Station are sufficient to merit conversion of this Station into a flag station, and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) to (c). Earnings from Perunguzhi Halt Station for the last three years are as under

1971-72	. Rs. 28,825
972-73	. . Rs. 43,460
1973-74	. . Rs. 38,544

Conversion of this Halt Station into a Flag Station can be considered only if the total earnings come to about Rs 62,000/- per annum. In addition a sum of rupees two lakhs is required to provide basic amenities for this Flag Station

From the above it appears that if the Perunguzhi Halt Station is converted into a Flag Station, the Railway will have to bear a burden of Rs. two lakhs (non-recurring) and about rupees fourteen thousands (recurring) per annum.

In view of the circumstances explained above it is not feasible to convert this Halt Station into a Flag Station at this stage.

Supply of Ration to Railway Employees after last Strike

*332 SHRI M. S. PURTY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether after the last Railway strike, any steps have been taken to ensure regular supply of rations to the Railway employees?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L N MISHRA) It was agreed during the course of discussion with recognised unions that fair price shops for foodgrains should be available at all Railway colonies where more than 300 staff are located. Necessary instructions to this effect have since been issued to the Zonal Railways. In addition Minister of Railways has written to Chief Ministers of State Governments to ensure regular supply of foodgrains to all fair price shops

रेल हड़ताल के दौरान रेलवे के टिकट चैकिंग स्टाफ के विरुद्ध की गई कार्यवाही

*333. श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) गल रेल हड़ताल के दौरान सर-वार ने रेलवे के विभिन्न टिकट चैकिंग वर्म-चारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की और किस प्रकार की कार्यवाही की, और

(ख) देश भर में, जोन-वार, कितने टी० टी० और टी० सी० निलम्बित किये गये और मेवा में निकाले गये और कितने को पुनः ड्यूटी पर आने की अनुमति दी गई ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सुहृन्मह लकी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख) . जिन