

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allotment of Quarter in Suburban Section of Sealdah Division

*661. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether Railway quarters are constructed at road side stations for providing suitable accommodation to the staff and their families working at these stations in the exigency of Railway services ;

(b) if so, the details of the quarters provided at road side stations in sub-urban section of Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway ;

(c) number of the Station Masters not provided with quarters at respective stations in that Division and reasons therefor ;

(d) action taken by the Administration against the illegal occupation of these quarters of station staff by the staff of various Department working at other places ; and

(e) reasons for not maintaining quota earmarked for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe staff for allotment of quarters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of quarters provided on road side stations in sub-urban section of Sealdah Division are as follows :

Type I	1459 Nos.
Type II	462 Nos.
Type III	13 Nos.
Type IV	5 Nos.

Total 1949 Nos.

These exclude the quarter provided at Depot Stations, Terminal Stations, Junction Stations and Important city Stations.

(c) The number of Station Masters not having quarters at respective Stations is 83. This is because either they are having their houses nearby the station of their posting and do not prefer to live in railway quarters or they have retained railway quarters at their old stations of posting due to their personnel reasons like children education, etc. and also such quarters not being far away from their present station of posting.

(d) In cases of unauthorised occupation of railway quarters by the staff, penal rent is recovered and disciplinary action is taken. Where unauthorised occupation continuous despite above action, eviction proceedings are resorted to.

(e) Instructions regarding reservation of railway quarters in favour of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes at the Stations where 50 or more quarters are located were issued in September, 1983. The Railway Administration is taking necessary steps to implement the instructions.

SHRI A. K. ROY : Railway employees are required to render 24 hours service to the railways. The problem is more for the roadside stations where residential accommodation is not available. The employees who go on transfers also have the accommodation problem in the railways.

The report of the railways for 1982-83 gives very scant information on the accommodation problem for the railway employees. It says :

"About 37% of the railway staff have been provided with quarters. Staff quarters numbering 5,648 units were constructed during the year. Of these, 2,526 units are meant for Group 'D' and 3,061 for 'C' staff."

There are more than 15 lakh employees and you have only 37% satisfaction and you are constructing quarters at the rate of 5,000 units which may give 1.03% satisfaction. If we take that 66% satisfaction is the optimum, you will need 100 years to give quarters to the railway employees.

The figures which are furnished in respect of Sealdah Division do not indicate the percentage satisfaction of the employees there. In part (b) of the answer, you have given the numbers for Types I, II, III and IV. What percentage satisfaction do they set to the railway employees? What is the requirement and what is the availability of quarters there?

What is the criterion of allotting quarters? Lot of corruption is taking place in the allotment of quarters and for getting priority. Seniors are being bypassed. The needy are being by passed.

Have you taken a policy decision to make arrangement for the accommodation of the employees who go on transfer?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : The policy of railways is to provide quarters on a programme basis for 'Essential' staff who are likely to be called on duty at odd hours.

We have divided the staff into 'Essential and Non-Essential'. 'Essen-

tial' staff include—the hon. Member must be knowing—the Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Drivers, Signal Inspectors, Bridge Inspectors etc and 'Non-Essential' staff are general clerks and Ticket Collectors etc.

With regard to the policy of the railways, we give priority to the 'Essential' staff first. And then we try to accommodate the 'Non-Essential' staff. I have already given you the definition of 'Essential' of and 'Non-Essential'.

In Sealdah Division, 'Essential' staff housed is 60% and 'Non-Essential' staff is 36%.

with regard to the All India picture, because of paucity of resources, we had 4,554 houses constructed in 1980-81. In 1983-84 we have spent about Rs. 14 crores and we expect completion of 6,500 houses. In 1984-85 we propose to construct 6,600 houses. And that is the money we can afford to spent.

I agree with you that if we have more money in the fitness of things, we could have given accommodation to all the deserving employees 'Essential' and 'Non-Essential' both.

SHRI A. K. ROY : In part 'C' of the answer to my question, the hon. Minister has said that 83 Station Masters could not be given accommodation in Sealdah Division and the reason is stated to be that they do not want quarters. Are you sure about it? Are you aware that some Station Masters are there who desire quarters but could not be given due to want of quarters?

In part (d) of the answer it is stated that there is unauthorised occupation of the railway quarters. Have you made a survey of what is the number of quarters under unauthorised occupation and the rate of evacuating them? To my knowledge, the rate of unauthorised occupation is more than the rate of evacuating them. Ultimately, more and more quarters are going to be under unauthorised occupation.

You said that the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be kept and some Instructions have been given. I would like to know what is the basis of that reservation.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY: In case of unauthorised occupation, penal rent is recovered and disciplinary action is taken. When this continues, eviction proceedings are started.

About the exact figures of cases of disciplinary action taken and eviction proceedings launched, I do not have the figures at the present moment. I am collecting the figures and I will place them on the Table of this House for the information of the hon. Member. I am sorry I have not been able to collect because it will take a bit of time to collect all these figures.

With regard to Station Masters, that is the figure that I have been given, that 83 Station Masters do not have quarters at respective stations. They are either having houses nearby. So they do not want to go to their quarters, or they have retained railway quarters at their earlier stations of posting for their personal reasons namely the education of children etc.

So, for these reasons some of the Station Masters, though quarters are available, have not taken the quarters.

With regard to reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for SC & ST employees of non-essential categories, because essential categories get preferential treatment and therefore, there the question of any special treatment does not arise and it only arises with regard to other categories, that is non-essential categories. Here 5% reservation was made and this has been increased to 10% for type I and type II quarters. In September 1983 instructions were issued that reservations should be made in all areas where the number of quarters is at least 50. In that case this formula will apply. For the SC &

ST employees eligible for type III and IV quarters in non-essential category, instructions were issued in September 1981 to keep reservation of 5% in cities where headquarters of Zonal Railways and production units are located.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार की तमाम कोशिशों के बावजूद आज भी एक-तिहाई से ज्यादा रेल कर्मचारियों को क्वार्टर नहीं दिए जा सके हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि एसेंशल कैटेगरी और नान-एसेंशल कैटेगरी में से एसेंशल कैटेगरी को क्वार्टर देने के बारे में प्रोफरेंस दिया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या एसेंशल कैटेगरी के सब कर्मचारियों को क्वार्टर दे दिए गए हैं। दूसरे, बड़े स्टेशनों के अलावा रोडसाइड स्टेशन भी हैं, जो या तो गांवों में होते हैं या छोटे शहरों में, जहाँ कर्मचारियों को किराये का मकान भी नहीं मिलता है। मैंने स्वयं देखा है कि ऐसे स्टेशनों पर काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को, जो एसेंशल कैटेगरी में हैं, रहने के लिए मकान नहीं मिलते हैं। क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि रोडसाइड स्टेशनों के एम्प्लॉयज को सेंट-पर-सेंट क्वार्टर दिए जाएं और उसके बाद बड़े शहरों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को दिए जाएं ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I think I have already replied all the questions and I can appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member. But you know for the essential category we give priority and the hon. Member has asked about the Sealdah Division. But if you want to take India as a whole, then figure is 37%. I am not happy with this picture. This is a disappointing picture. But, at the same time, I have been repeating in the House about the paucity of funds. If you do not have the funds, it makes provision of housing and other welfare

activities difficult. Since I have assumed charge, I have increased the funds. So far as welfare measures are concerned like hospitals, housing, etc., etc. But even then the number of people is more and the money is not adequate enough to give them housing at the rate you want to give. I am trying to get more money and when more money is available, we will be able to give them houses.

SHRI R. P. YADAV : What about preference to the Station Masters of roadside stations ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : We have only essential and non-essential classification.

SHRI RATANSINGH RAJDA : Why don't you approach the World Bank for assistance in this regard ?

MR SPEAKER : Next Question.

**नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों को नियमित करना
और उनका स्थानान्तरण करना**

*662. श्री हेमबतीमन्दन बहुगुणा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे बोर्ड ने देश के सभी रेलवे सेवा आयोग के चेयरमैनों को भेजे गए दिनांक 8 जुलाई, 1983 के अपने कार्यालय के आदेश संख्या ई (एन. जी.) 11-83 आर.एस.सी./94-नई दिल्ली द्वारा उन्हें फालतू नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों के बारे में दिनांक 3 मई, 1983 को कलकत्ता में हुई रेलवे आयोगों के चेयरमैन सदस्यों और सचिवों की बैठक में लिए गए निर्णय के बारे में सूचित किया था और उन्हें यह निदेश दिया था कि वर्तमान (फालतू) सभी नैमित्तिक श्रमिकों को निकटवर्ती डिब्बोजन में स्थानान्तरित करके नियमित किया जाना चाहिए तथा क्या इस निर्णय की प्रतियां सभी रेलवे सेवा आयोगों को भी भेज दी गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किन-किन रेलवे सेवा आयोगों ने उक्त आदेशों का पालन किया है;

(ग) क्या इलाहाबाद रेलवे सेवा आयोग के चेयरमैन ने उक्त आदेश पर अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Orders were issued *vide* Railway Board's letter dated 8.7.83 that all casual labour at present available with the Service Commissions should be regularised by transferring them in the adjoining Divisions, etc.

(b) These directives were meant mainly for the nine old Railway Service Commissions, namely, Allahabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Gauhati, Madras, Muzaffarpur, Patna and Secunderabad, many of whom had the problem of surplus casual labour as on 8.7.83. All these Commissions, except Patna have taken necessary action to implement these orders. The seven new Service Commissions do not have the problem of surplus casual labour at present.

(c) No, Sir. He has taken action.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA : With reference to part (a) of the answer placed on the table of the House in which the hon. Minister was pleased to