

**Selection Committee for III and IV
Grade Posts in North-Eastern
Railway**

*332. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Selection Committee to select persons for III and IV grade posts in North-Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):**

(a) Appointment to Class III on the N.E. Railway is through Railway Service Commission, Muzaffarpur. Class IV vacancies are normally filled by screening serving Casual Labour by a committee of officers.

(b) The Railway Service Commission consists of a Chairman and a Member Secretary. The latter post is vacant at present.

**Conversion of Rupsa-Talband Narrow
Gauge Line into Broad Gauge Line**

*335. SHRI S. KUNDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh survey has been undertaken to convert into broad gauge the Rupsa-Talband narrow gauge line in the South-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, when and when will the survey be completed; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken in the recent past for improving the condition of running of goods and passenger trains in this line, if so, details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):**

(a) and (b). A survey for the gauge

conversion of Rupsa-Talband narrow gauge line to broad gauge was completed in 1972-73.

(c) The Government of Orissa have been requested to furnish details of the industries proposed to be set up by them and other development schemes for exploitation of forest and mineral resources in the area served by the line. A decision regarding further investments on the line will be taken after these details are furnished by them, and a fresh assessment of the project is made.

**Selection of Apprentices through
Special Class Railway Apprentices
Examination**

*336. SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of apprentices selected every year from 1974 to 1977 on the basis of the special class Railway Apprentices examination; and

(b) the number who completed the courses successfully from each batch of recruits from 1974 to date?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):**

(a) The number of Special Class Apprentices recruited on the basis of the Examinations held during 1974 to 1977 is as under:—

(1) 1974	17
(2) 1975	23
(3) 1976	10
(4) 1977	

Selections have not been completed by the UPSC. It is intended to take 10 candidates.

(b) None of the above mentioned Special Class Apprentices has so far

completed 4 years' apprenticeship as they joined in February, 1975 onwards.

Practice of obtaining Signatures or Thumb Impression of Voters in Elections

*339. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the proposal for re-introducing the practice of obtaining the signature or thumb impression of the voter on the counterfoil of the ballot paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being contemplated in order to make the election absolutely free and fair?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b). The question has come up for consideration before Government. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

(c) Steps required for improving the election machinery will be examined by Government as part of the Electoral Reforms under consideration.

Curbing all Trade Union Rights by the Management of FCI, Durgapur

*340. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the management of Fertilizer Corporation of India, Durgapur Unit is indulging in excesses for curbing all

trade union rights of the working class; and

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the allegation made by the FCI Employees' Union, Durgapur?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) There is no evidence to suggest that the management of Durgapur Unit is indulging in excesses for curbing trade union rights of the working class.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to improve Working of Oil Companies

*341. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is taking any steps to improve efficiency and to effect economy in the working of oil companies; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). The Ministry has got studies carried out in subjects such as crude optimisation, improvement in product pattern, integration of facilities, coordination in transport arrangements, of crude oil imports and coastal movements and refinery fuel and loss and optimisation in the use of equipment and installations by reduction in down time. The results of these studies were passed on to the oil companies and in several cases economies have been effected and efficiency has been improved as a result of the implementation of the recommendations contained in them. Such steps are taken on a continuing basis.