

opening cement factories? When there is so much cement, how is it that Government is not able to provide cement all over the country at fixed prices?

**SHRI F. A. AHMED :** The price of cement is uniform all over the country. If there is any shortage anywhere, I shall bring it to the notice of the Cement Corporation and they will see that that area also gets adequate cement. We are thinking of taking up under the Cement Corporation those projects where there is raw material available and where there are no such cement factories, so that cement may be available all over the country.

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS AND INSPECTORS OF  
WAYS AND WORKS

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\*574. **SHRI NAMBIAR :**  
**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH**  
**MAHIDA :**  
**SHRI RAJARAM :**  
**SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :**  
**SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :**  
**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI :**  
**SHRI KIKAR SINGH :**  
**SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors of Ways and Works on various Railways have been retrenched or reverted even after their completion of 5 to 10 years of service and even though they worked on permanent cadre;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these persons had been imparted technical training; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to absorb them or to provide them alternative jobs?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI  
PARIMAL GHOSH) :** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (d). Due to completion of works and resultant reduction in the cadre arising out of surrender of temporary and work-charged posts, a number of Inspec-

tors of Works and Assistant Inspectors of Works have become surplus on various Railways. Some of them have been absorbed in equivalent or lower grade posts; where this is not possible permanent persons who were officiating in higher grades have been reverted to their substantive posts and the junior-most direct recruits have been rendered surplus. They have been offered alternative appointment in the technical or non-technical categories where vacancies are available. In the process it was found that some did not accept the alternative appointment offered to them.

(b) Information is being collected from Railways and a statement will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Direct recruits are given necessary training as prescribed in the rules. Promotees are not given any such training since they are promoted by virtue of their experience and suitability.

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** May I know whether it is not possible for Government to give employment to about 50 AIWs who are rendered surplus? After all, their number is too small and the railway is too big?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** Due to the completion of a large number of construction works and projects, there has been a surplus of AIWs and IWs. Because of paucity of funds, there is also a slackening in the tempo of development, which has also aggravated the situation. Every effort has been made to provide alternative work to all these workers. Those who have accepted the offer of alternative employment, all of them have been provided with employment.

**SHRI NAMBIAR :** May I know whether it is not a fact that some of them have accepted the alternative employment due to the fact that the railways told them categorically that all of them cannot be given this AIWs' job continuously? May I also know whether those who have accepted alternative employment will be considered for being taken back as AIWs if there are vacancies?

**SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH :** Whenever there are vacancies for AIWs, these people would be definitely given a chance.