

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

DIESEL ENGINE WORKSHOP, BHAKTIARPUR (BIHAR)

***355. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the preliminary survey and the selection of a site had been done for the location of the Diesel Engine Workshop at Bhaktiarpur in Bihar;

(b) whether the workshop site was shifted to Calcutta subsequently;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cost of construction would have been cheaper at Bhaktiarpur; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the decision to shift the workshop site to Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF COAL

***356. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :**
SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have agreed to give increased price for coal consumed by them; and

(b) if so, the reasons for giving increased price ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the price increases is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1633/68].

(b) Government examined the prices of coal and considered the increases as reasonable.

RAILWAY CATERING VENDORS' TRADE UNIONS

***357. SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the basis of the representation of the Railway Catering Vendors' Trade Unions to the Railways Catering and Passengers' Amenities Committee regarding the licensing of Commissioned Vendors or, in the alternative, their employment under the Railway Catering Department as regular salaried staff with usual rights and privileges granted to Railwaymen; and

(b) what proportion of the staff of the previous catering contractors has been taken over by the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee has made the following recommendations in regard to these matters after taking into account representations made to the Committee and all other relevant factors.

(1) *Recommendation No. 10(i)*

With a view to minimising the losses in the operation of mobile units the Committee recommend the following :

(i) The practice of appointing pay-cum-commission bearers should be replaced by some other system which would restore incentive on the part of the bearers.

(2) *Recommendation No. 15*

The Committee are of the view that in the interest of economic viability of departmental catering at stations, the present arrangements for vending should continue.

(3) *Recommendation No. 18*

The Committee are of the view that at stations where there is departmental catering, vending should be entrusted to individual vendors on a commission basis and not to vending contractors.