

Committees in the Railways

374. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Committees have been reconstituted in the Railways from Divisional to National level;

(b) if so, what criteria have been adopted in their re-constitution;

(c) the names and functions of the Committees, zone-wise and details including the persons who have been nominated by the Government; and

(d) whether any suggestions regarding nominations to these Committees were received from Members of Parliament and accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) The Divisional Railways Users' Consultative Committees on all railways, except on South Eastern, Southern and South Central railways have already been constituted for the term ending 31st December, 1985. The Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee of the Central Railway has been reconstituted for the term ending 31-3-1986 and the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees of rest of the railways are in the process of reconstitution. The National Railway Users' Consultative Council will also be reconstituted after reconstitution of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees.

(b) Nomination on the Railway Users' Consultative Committees is based on the principle of securing representation to various identifiable and important groups of rail users. Representation is specially provided for Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, Agricultural Associations, Passenger Associations repre-

sentatives of States Governments, representatives of State Legislatures and Members of Parliament. Such other interests as are not covered under these specific provisions are nominated under "Special Interests" representing different shades of public opinion.

(c) The Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee deals with matters relating to the services and facilities provided by the railways in regard to respective Zones whereas the Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee deal with matters of local interest. The names of persons nominated by the Government will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Requests had been received from the Members of Parliament from both the Houses and have been taken into consideration and some of those recommended have been included in the list under "Special Interests".

Additional Irrigation Potential

375. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the additional irrigation potential likely to be achieved by the end of 1984 as against the target set forth for the Sixth Plan (1980-81 to 1984-85) with the reasons for the shortfall, if any in the achievement of the target; and

(b) what are the likely effects of the shortfall on the country's agricultural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The additional irrigation potential anticipated to be achieved by the end of 1983-84 is about 9.05 M.Ha. as against the VI Plan target of 13.74 M. Ha. The shortfall is mainly due

to overall financial constraints and increase in cost estimates.

(b) Irrigation being one of the several inputs it is not possible to assess its effect on agricultural development. Further, the development depends upon the actual utilisation of irrigation potential and not on the irrigation potential created.

Providing consumer goods to rural people

376. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state what special measures Government propose to take to provide consumer goods to the rural people during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): The Central Government makes available certain essential commodities namely wheat, rice, sugar, edible oils, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth to the States for distribution through the outlets of Public Distribution System. State Governments have been advised from time to time to expand the Public Distribution System more particularly in rural, hilly and inaccessible areas so as to serve the poor and vulnerable sections of society.

The Central Government is also implementing a Centrally-sponsored Plan Scheme for providing margin money assistance to Village Societies for distribution of consumer articles in the rural areas. Under this scheme, assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 is provided to Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies and Large Sized Agricultural Multi-purpose Societies for opening retail outlets/taking up consumer business in rural areas. From 1978 to June, 1984 margin money amounting to Rs. 2465.25 lakhs has been sanctioned to 38171 societies. An outlay of Rs. 5.60 crores has been provided

for this purpose during the current financial year.

Moradabad-Ramnagar-Haldwani Rail Line

377. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1079 on the 7th March, 1984 in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) the total route kilometre of Moradabad-Ramnagar-Haldwani rail line to be converted from metre-gauge to broad gauge;

(b) the route kilometre of railway line which has been converted so far since the project was approved in 1975;

(c) the total estimated expenditure on this project;

(d) the total amount that has been incurred upto 31-3-1984;

(e) the amount likely to be incurred on this project during the current financial year; and

(f) what special efforts are being made to expedite completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Conversion of Moradabad-Ramnagar MG section into BG has to be done over a length of 77.50 kms.

(b) This project was approved in 1977-78 and not in 1975. No portion of the rail line has been converted into BG so far.

(c) Rs. 15.84 crores.

(d) Rs. 2.57 crores.

(e) The outlay provided for this project in 1984-85 is Rs. 2.85 Crores.

(f) The outlay in 1984-85 has been stepped up to Rs. 2.85 crores and the work is being progressed accordingly. Completion will depend on availability of resources.