

Ambala Cantt. station is under process by the Northern Railway.

(c) and (d) A decision to introduce mobile library-cum-book stalls on long distance trains had already been taken and the zonal Railways advised to initiate necessary action in this regard.

Jobs-opportunities to "Viklang" persons in the Ministry of Railways

373. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways have not yet framed any such policy for providing vending licence or other work of the same type to the "Viklang" people; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways propose to help the "Viklang" people by providing them licence for vending and to sell State Governments Lottery Tickets, miscellaneous and general good stalls etc. to them, if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Though no policy has recently been framed, consideration is always given to the handicapped persons, in terms of the existing instructions, for engagement as Commission Bearers in the departmental catering establishments. As regards awarding of vending licences to the handicapped persons, their cases are considered on selective basis, on sympathetic grounds.

Second entry to Delhi Main Station

374. SHRI PATITPABAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of second entry to Delhi Main Station has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in this behalf and the likely date of its completion; and

(c) what are the reasons for not opening the passenger platform No. 14-A at Delhi Main which has long been constructed and ready for passenger traffic?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The work of provision of allied facilities in connection with Second Entry to Delhi Main Railway Station has been included in the Budget for 1981-82 and preliminary arrangements are on hand. No target date for completion of this work has yet been fixed.

(c) Platform No. 14-A at Delhi Main has been constructed for handling trains on Delhi-Shahdara-Shamli-Saharanpur section. This could not be commissioned as works connected with the provision of certain passenger amenities as also junction arrangements at Delhi-Shahdara are still in progress.

Allotment of Bookstalls on S.E. Railways

375. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2965 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th September, 1981 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Nag Narain Singh unemployed graduate has been holding bookstall contract of Palasa Station on Southern Eastern Railway since long and without any reason;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the existing procedure, the Partnership of Unemployed Graduates has top preference over the individual un-

employed graduates for allotment of bookstalls;

(c) whether it is a fact that S. E. Railway did not follow the Ministry of Railways' instructions dated 14th October, 1980 and allotted the contract to Shri S. K. Patnayak on 12th November, 1980 again keeping aside the registered partnership of unemployed graduates (M/s. Pankaj and Company); and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The bookstall contract at Palasa station was allotted to Shri Nag Narain Sinha under normal procedure on 1-11-76 and has been renewed for second term.

(b) The order of preference for allotment of bookstalls is as under:

(i) Cooperative Societies of actual workers/vendors and Cooperative Societies of unemployed graduates;

(ii) Partnerships and Associations of unemployed graduates;

(iii) Individual unemployed graduates who are sons/ward of railwaymen (existing or retired); and

(iv) Individual unemployed graduates other than those mentioned at (iii) above.

(c) and (d) The contract to Shri S. K. Patnayak has been correctly awarded as per extent orders on merit being found more suitable than the partnership firm.

Sale of reserved Railway Tickets

376. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 436 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 1981 and state what action has been taken against the defaulting staff through

whom certain persons sold reserved railway tickets publicly?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): 18 Railway staff out of 23 found involved in dubious dealings during recent surprise checks at Eastern Railway reservation offices, Calcutta have been punished and disciplinary action is in progress against the staff remaining.

Additional trains on Patna-Howrah Patna-Tatanagar, Patna-Ranchi and Patna-Muzaffarpur lines

377. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent Press report to the fact that the Chief Minister of Bihar stated that additional trains on Patna-Howrah, Patna-Tatanagar, Patna-Ranchi and Patna-Muzaffarpur lines are needed to meet the increasing rail traffic; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No. However, Government are aware of demand for additional trains on these sections.

(b) On Patna-Ranchi section load of 23/24 Patna-Hatia Express has been augmented by 4 coaches w.e.f. 29-12-80. Between Patna and Howrah, total number of ten slip coaches are running by various trains. It is not possible for Railways to introduce additional trains on Patna-Howrah, Patna-Tatanagar, Patna-Ranchi and Patna-Muzaffarpur sections on account of acute shortage of coaches on the Indian Railways. Other major con-