

Appointment of Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society

*200. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR:

SHRI LADLY MOHAN NIGAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have discontinued the established practice of nominating a high non-official as Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to the Chairman of the Managing Body of the Society, who is nominated by the President of the Society. As such, the question of discontinuance of any practice by Government does not arise.

Sanction of posts of clerks in Southern Railway Personnel Branch

676. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 45000 casual labourers now working in Southern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that no clerical post in Personnel Branch has been sanctioned to prepare the salary bills of these casual labourers;

(c) whether the Zonal Administration is treating personnel branch clerks as "bonded labour" to do the work without sanctioning additional posts as per yardstick; and

(d) whether Government propose to sanction the required number of clerical posts in the Personnel

Branch to deal with the personnel matters of the casual labourers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The total number of casual labourers now working in Southern Railway is about 35,095.

(b) There are no separate clerks exclusively for dealing establishment work connected with casual labourers.

(c) No.

(d) At present, there is a complete ban on creation of new posts. However, a yardstick for provision of clerical staff in the Personnel Branches is being evolved and sanctioning of any additional posts can be considered, after the yardstick is evolved and accepted by Government. Meanwhile, as an interim measure, some ad-hoc relief has been given recently to the Personnel Branches as a whole.

Shortage of wagons

677. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH:

SHRIMATI KANAK

MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of railway wagons has affected tea and iron ore export; and

(b) if so; what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Demands for wagons for export of tea have been fully met. Whereas rail capacity for movement of export iron ore on Bailadilla-Vizag sector remained under-utilised for want of demand for wagons, there was some shortfall in wagon supplies on the Barajamda-Paradip sector.