

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Recruitment to Class III services by the Railway Service Commissions is on zonal railway basis. The boundaries of each Railway Zone do not coincide with the State boundaries and each Railway Zone traverses more than one State. In order to attract local persons vacancies in pay scales the minimum of which is Rs. 425 or less and which form the bulk of the vacancies, are advertised in all regional newspapers commonly read in the area where the vacancies exist. The Railway Service Commissions also hold written tests and interviews at all important Centres. The Recruitment procedure, therefore, provides enough scope to fulfil regional aspirations.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Metre gauge sector between Hospet and Hubli

2114. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that metre gauge rails between Hospet and Hubli have already reached a saturated point;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the Hospet broad gauge line to Hubli; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No. Capacity utilisation on the section is 68 per cent of the available capacity.

(b) and (c) In view of the traffic levels—current as well as anticipated for next few years—extension of E.G. line to Hubli is not contemplated at present.

Railway system in Karnataka State

2115. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka State is deficient in rail system, particularly in broad gauge as compared to that in other States in the South;

(b) whether Government have received representations from Karnataka Government for conversion of trunk routes and additional railway lines; and

(c) what action the Central Government have taken to meet the demand of Karnataka Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI (SHEO NARAIN): (a) Railway network in Karnataka consists predominantly of M.G. lines, being a part of the well-knit metre gauge system of Southern India.

(b) Yes.

(c) Conversion of lines to broad gauge is closely linked with level of traffic handled on the lines, and the extent of intergauge transshipment involved. Based on these criteria, conversion of Guntakal-Bangalore route has been undertaken, and also Bangalore-Mysore conversion included in the 1979-80 Railway budget.

Report of the Committee on Overseas Employment

2116. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the report of the committee on overseas employment; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken thereon?