

rank staff without officiating allowance; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such posts down graded or lying vacant grade-wise in such Signal and Telecommunication Department of each division of the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Funds for the Signal and Telecommunication Department of the Railways

2092. SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the funds allocated for the Signal and Telecommunication Department of the Railways during 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) whether it is a fact that the funds were increased for the Signal and Telecommunication Department to ensure safety through electronic and modern gadgets;

(c) whether the funds have been reduced in the budget for 1979-80; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for such reduction and what are its repercussions on the development of Signal and Telecommunications working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The allotment for 1977-78 under Signalling and Interlocking plan-head was Rs. 14.70 crores and for 1978-79 the allotment was Rs. 20 crores.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The allotment for 1979-80 is also Rs. 20 crores, same as for 1978-79.

(d) Does not arise.

D.T.C. Services on Route No. 80

2093. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the frequency of service on D.T.C. on Route No. 80 at present;

(b) what is the number of trips that have been missed on that route during the months of January and February and first week of this month;

(c) whether it is also a fact that two out of the four private buses under D.T.C. Operation plying on this route are very old which often break-down on the way; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) 10 minutes during peak hours and 20 minutes during slack hours.

(b) The information is given below:—

Month	No. of trips missed
January, 1979	642
February, 1979	463
March, '79 (1st to 7th)	421

(c) and (d) The route is operated by two DTC buses and four private buses under Kilometerage Scheme. Two of the private buses have been giving somewhat irregular service due to maintenance problem faced by their owners. They have been advised to improve maintenance of the buses as frequent withdrawals were causing dislocation in service and resultant inconvenience to public. One of the buses after repairs has resumed operation from 13-3-79. The other operator is being issued a strict warning, and in case the matters don't improve after the warning, the DTC proposes to terminate his agreement.