

Absorption of railway canteen workers

1021. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
PANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working on commission basis in the canteens attached to various trains in each Railway Zone; and

(b) the progress so far made to absorb them as departmental employees and to abolish the commission system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) There are 1052 bearers working on commission basis on mobile catering units on the Railways. The Zone-wise strength of commission bearers is as under:

Railway	Number of commission bearers
Central	116
Eastern	135
Northern	24
North Eastern	14
Northeast Frontier	..
Southern	444
South Central	68
South Eastern	140
Western	111
TOTAL	1052

(b) It has been decided to abolish the category of commission bearers and absorb them as regular railway

employees in a phased manner in order of the length of their service. Instructions have already been issued to all the Railways and necessary action is being taken in the matter.

Appointment of judges from amongst the advocates

1022. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many members of the Bar have been appointed as judges in various High Courts directly since April, 1977 and what is their percentage to the total appointments made during that period;

(b) how many of them were practising Advocates at the Benches of these High Courts, such as Nagpur, Indore, Lucknow, etc.; and

(c) what is the prescribed percentage or convention for such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) A statement containing the requisite information is attached. The number of the members of the Bar appointed as Judges is 57 per cent of the total number of appointments made during the period.

(b) Five of the members of the Bar appointed as Judges were practising before such Benches of the concerned High Courts before their appointment as Judges and one at both in principal seat of the High Court as well as at the Bench.

(c) High Court Judges are appointed in accordance with the provisions contained in article 217 of the Constitution. There is no proportion fixed for recruitment of Judges from the Bar and the Judicial Service. Appointments are made on the basis of merit and suitability.

Statement

Appointments of Judges made in various High Courts and those made from the members of the Bar since 1st April, 1977.

Name of the High Court	Total number of appointments made	Number of judges appointed from Bar
1. Allahabad	15	9
2. Andhra Pradesh	1	..
3. Bombay	8	6
4. Calcutta	11	6
5. Delhi	4	2
6. Gauhati
7. Gujarat	2	..
8. Himachal Pradesh
9. Jammu & Kashmir
10. Karnataka	7	4
11. Kerala	1	1
12. Madhya Pradesh	4	2
13. Madras	5	4
14. Orissa	1	1
15. Patna	4	2
16. Punjab & Haryana	3	..
17. Rajasthan	6	4
18. Sikkim
TOTAL	72	41

Linking of Nirmali with Bhaptiahi Railway Station

1023. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that preparations have been afoot for linking Nirmali station with Bhaptiahi station on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) An engineering-cttm-traffic survey was carried out to investigating the possibility of restoring the metre gauge rail link between Nirmali and Bhaptiahi. An alternative survey of providing MG rail link from Nirmali to Bhimnagar which in turn is to be connected to Lalitgram was also carried out. The survey reports were received in 1977. Both these alternatives involve construction of a bridge across the Kosi river costing about Rs. 30 crores. It has not been possible to take up this project so far on account of limited availability of resources.

Abolition of the dowry system.

1024. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 296 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1978 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision to introduce a Bill to provide for stringent measures against giving and acceptance of dowry;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (c) The proposals to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, to make it more effective are still under consideration. These proposals relate *inter alia* to ceiling on presents, restriction on extravagance at marriages, prohibition of display of presents and enhancement of punishments. As this is an important social legislation, some time is likely to be taken to arrive at decisions on the issues involved.