

Broad Gauge Line between Nagpur and Jabalpur via Ramtek

*722. SHRI S. W. DHABE :

SHRI N. M. KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Nagpur and Jabalpur via Ramtek by broad gauge line ; and

(b) if so by when the preliminary survey work will be conducted and the work taken in hand ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Upgrading the posts of clerks in Accounts Department of Northern Railway

*723. SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the posts of clerks working in Accounts Departments of the Northern Railway ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether there is any time limit for a clerk to get promotion in the railways after he passes the departmental examination and what are the other incentives provided to qualified clerks who are not promoted within a specified period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No upgrading proposal has so far been formulated for the accounts clerks cadre of the Northern Railway.

(b) No, Sir. The promotions of such staff are dependent on the availability of the vacancies.

Staff who have qualified in the departmental examinations are given incentives in the shape of advance, or enhanced

increments till they are promoted. These incentives are allowed in the Authorised Scale of Pay and the question of providing corresponding incentives under the revised pay scales is under consideration.

Abolition of First Class Air-conditioned Coaches

*724. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made of the class of persons utilising first class air-conditioned coaches ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abolish first class air-conditioned accommodation in Railways ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No survey was made on Indian Railways as a whole. A sample survey was, however, conducted by the Northern Railway in the months of February and May, 1973 to collect information relating to first class and Air-conditioned class travellers on Government account and on private account.

(b) No, Sir. It may be appreciated that as a commercial organisation, the Railways have to provide the classes of accommodation for which there is a demand and traffic justification.

Dealership of Indane Gas to War-widows, Harijans and unemployed Engineers

*725. SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of Indane Gas distributors in the Union territory of Delhi; if so, what are the details thereof; and