

Railway Track Blocked by Sand Storms

*461. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway traffic in Bikaner Division was disrupted during the month of June, 1973 due to the blocking of railway track on account of sand storms;

(b) if so, the number of trains which had to be cancelled as a result thereof; and

(c) the estimated loss suffered by Government on this account ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. On Hanumangarh-Sadulpur, Hanumangarh-Bikaner, Canal Loop and Lallgarh-Kolayat sections of Bikaner Division.

(b) 32 passenger carrying trains were fully cancelled and 202 partially cancelled. The movement of goods traffic was also disrupted on these sections for varying durations.

(c) Rs. 13.04 lakhs approximately.

Demand for Promotional Avenues by All-India Railway Protection Force Association

*462. MISS SAROJ PURUSHOTTAM KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Railway Protection Force Association has made representation to Government to the effect that avenues of promotion to top posts in service should be open for them; that the pay structure be improved and zonal associations recognised in the interest of better and efficient working of the Force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

While the Government do not propose taking official cognizance of these representations of the All-India Railway Protection Force Association, as it is not a recognised body, Government have *suo moto* taken action to improve the promotional and service prospects of R.P.F. on the following lines :

(i) All posts up to the rank of Inspector by promotion will go only to Departmental personnel. In the rank of Assistant Security Officer and Security Officer they will get a higher percentage of the posts. A new rank of Dy. Chief Security Officer has been created to provide a promotional avenue to senior Departmental Security Officers. In this way, it is the intention to make the Force self contained and to reduce dependence on outside sources in due course.

(ii) Pay structure of the R.P.F. personnel will be decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission which is under examination.

(iii) Conditions have been laid down for the recognition of R.P.F. Zonal Railway Associations. One Association on each Railway will be recognised when they fulfill these conditions.

C.O.B. Licences to Drug Manufacturers

*463. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether C.O.B. licences have been issued to certain drug manufacturing firms for items not actually produced by them during the last three years;

(b) whether these C.O.B. licences cover items which were being produced by them under permission letters.

(c) whether permission letters have any legal backing, rectify the position?

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take to rectify the position ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) C.O.B. licences have been issued to drug manufacturers in pursuance of notifications issued by the Ministry of Industrial Development on the 19th February, 1970 and 18th July, 1970 under section 13(c) of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. These licences are issued to take cognisance of actual production established by such undertakings or effective steps taken by them to establish such production, during the period of exemption from the licensing provisions of the Ind. (Dev. & Reg.) Act, 1951.

(b) to (d) The permission letters were issued to a number of companies during the period 1952 to 1965 authorising the companies to manufacture items listed in such permission letters. A few companies applied for inclusion of capacities covered under permission letters within their COB licences. COB licences have been issued in such cases to consolidate capacities.

Sone River Water Dispute

***464. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Members of Parliament have requested the Prime Minister to intervene in the Sone River Water dispute in order to safeguard the interests of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) No such written request has been received.

(b) Discussions on the Bansagar Project and the Sone Waters have been held with the Governments of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and efforts continue to be made to evolve proposals which might be acceptable to all the three States, and it is hoped that a settlement will be arrived at amongst the States in the near future.

Allotment of book-stalls at railway stations to unemployed graduates

***465. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :**

SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 439 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1973 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that co-operative societies of educated unemployed to whom book-stalls would be awarded, cannot, according to Co-operative Societies Act, operate in any State other than the one in which they are registered;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to modify and simplify the scheme;

(c) the number of graduates likely to be employed at each stall and the total number of such bookstalls at present available for allotment to these Co-operative Societies; and

(d) the steps taken by his Ministry to make the scheme a success.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) So long as the membership of the Co-operative Society extends to more than one States, the Society can be registered under the Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies Act 1942, in which case, the area of operation of the Society can also be extended beyond one State.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This will depend upon the total membership of each Co-operative Society and the number of bookstalls to be allotted to each such Society. Applications have been invited for award of bookstall contracts at 124 stations.

(d) Due publicity has been given to the scheme through Press notes and advertisements in various newspapers in English and other languages.