

4. The question of issuing similar orders in so far as the Railway Board Secretariat Clerical Service is concerned, was also taken up and necessary orders in this regard have since been issued on 3-5-72. The question of confirmation of the 23 employees mentioned above is being considered in the light of these orders and their continuance in the higher grades of Upper Division Clerks etc. will also be considered on the basis of the seniority which will thus be assigned to them vis-a-vis other employees who have already been confirmed as Lower Division Clerks.

5. Accordingly the question of supersession of any permanent Lower Division Clerks is not involved as implied in part (a) of the Question. Also no temporary Lower Division Clerks as such are being promoted to higher grades superseding the claims of any permanent eligible Lower Division Clerks.

NEW RAILWAY STATIONS IN TAMIL NADU

*27. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of new railway stations opened in Tamil Nadu during 1971-72; and

(b) the number and the names of new railway stations proposed to be opened in that State during the current financial year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The following train halts were opened in Tamil Nadu during the year 1971-72:—

(i) Andampallam Train Halt between Adichchanur and Tandarai stations.

(ii) Marudalam Train Halt between Thalagai and Walajah Road stations.

(iii) Tirumani Train Halt between Chingleput and Ottivakkem stations.

(iv) Pudupet Train Halt between Attur and Kattukottai stations.

(b) The following stations are proposed to be opened in Tamil Nadu during the current financial year 1972-73.

(i) Flag station between St. Thomas Mount and Minambakkam stations.

(ii) Train Halt between Kadam-battur and Manur stations.

PRICES OF EGYPTIAN COTTON

*28. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

SARDAR AMJAD ALI-

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR

MUKHERJEE : SHRI

K. B. CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been considerable rise in the prices of Egyptian Cotton and that the prices were raised twice within a short period; if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on India's cotton imports from the U.A.R.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Egypt is reluctant to reduce cotton prices against the trade's quota and is not exporting the agreed quantity of cotton to India; if so, the reasons assigned therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to settle the issue with the Egyptian Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Indo-ARE trade agreement signed in October, 1971, contains a provision of Rs. 35 crores for import of cotton by India. The quantity involved is approximately 1.75 lakh bales. The Egyptian Cotton General Organisation announced some rise in prices of cotton in January, 1972 as a result of which the quantum of cotton to be imported may get marginally reduced. Government are not aware about the reluctance or willingness on the part of the

Egyptian Authorities to reduce prices. Contracts were made for 64,000 Egyptian bales. There was some delay in finalisation of contracts for the balance quantity. However, as a result of discussions held in April 1972 with the Egyptian authorities an understanding has been reached and out of balance quantity of 35,000 Egyptian bales, 15,000 Egyptian bales have been offered immediately and the balance would be available in September, 1972.

RAJDHANI EXPRESS BETWEEN DELHI AND CALCUTTA

*29. SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the disturbing sound inside the compartments of Rajdhani Express running between Delhi and Calcutta which is on the increase; and

(b) what was the occupancy rate for 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 of Rajdhani Express for sleeper, air-conditioned and Chair-car accommodation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) A constant watch is kept on the maintenance of the Rajdhani Express rake and whenever any unusual feature or noise is observed or reported upon, immediate steps are taken by the maintenance staff to investigate and rectify the defects, if any.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The percentage of average occupation in Air-conditioned sleeper and Chair-cars of Rajdhani Express during the last three years was as follows:

Year	A.C. Sleeper (per cent)	A.C. Chair Car (per cent)
1969-70	89	84
1970-71	95.3	94
1971-72	94.5	96.2

ACCIDENT INVOLVING ASSAM MAIL

*30. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there was a train accident at level crossing between Buxar and Chausa involving the Assam Mail resulting in the death of eight persons; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 13-4-1972 while train No. 86 Down Assam Mail was running between Chausa and Buxar stations of the Eastern Railway it collided with a tractor and trailer at the engineering level crossing gate No. 74/C at Km. 667/5. In this accident eight persons were killed and one sustained minor injury.

ELECTRIFICATION OF VILLAGES

1. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the number of villages in different States which have been electrified in 1970, 1971 and so far in 1972 and its percentage in relation to total number of villages in the respective States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAD NATH KUREEL) : A statement is attached. [See Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 7]

SHORTAGE OF PETROL/PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

2. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI D. P. SINGH :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :