

PLACING OF ORDERS FOR "WAGONS"

1456. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the wagon builders of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after placement of orders by the Railways it takes 7 to 8 months to complete the preliminaries by a firm for beginning the actual manufacture of wagons;

(d) if so, whether the Railway Board places orders sufficiently in advance for the purpose and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railway Board urged the extension of capacity some years back; and

(f) what is the extent of idle capacity in West Bengal for lack of orders from the railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes. Representations were received from some of the wagon builders in West Bengal.

(b) The firms had represented about uneconomic prices offered, inadequate wagon orders, late placement of orders and erratic and inadequate supply of matched steel and wheel sets.

(c) The time to complete preliminaries varies from firm to firm. Some firms are able to start manufacture in a couple of months after placement of order.

(d) There is no specific time fixed for placement of wagon orders. It may not always be possible to place orders well in advance as wagon requirements have to be assessed on the latest available trends of traffic. However, delays that may take place should not affect wagon production as the firms have invariably backlogs

to be completed against earlier orders. The details as to how orders were placed during the last two years are given below: —

| | Offers made after acceptance | Orders were placed after receipt of firm's acceptance |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Wagon Building Programme (1st July to 30th June) | | |
| 1969-70 | April, 1969 | April, 1969 to September, 1969 |
| 1970-71 | August, 1970 | September, 1970 to November, 1970 |

The late placement of orders against the 1970-71 wagon programme was due to difficulty in finalising wagon requirements under uncertain traffic trends. However, the firms' production would not be affected on this account as they had sufficient backlog against earlier orders.

(e) Yes. It was in the context of increased wagon requirements in the Second and Third Five Year Plans. The production of wagons in recent years has, however, been much less than the licensed capacity.

(f) The extent of idle capacity with wagon builders in West Bengal is not known. The wagon builders themselves are in a better position to estimate idle capacity if any, as they have also to take into account other load of work available with them on account of export orders and diversification of manufacturing activities, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACCIDENTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

1457. DR. B. N. ANTANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the recommendations of Accidents Enquiry Committee, the Railway Board *vide* their letter No E(G)69 QRI-15, dated the 30th August, 1969, issued instructions to allot quarters to Essential Running Staff "ordinarily" vacated by Running Staff;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Divisional Superintendent Bikaner (Northern Railway) has allotted quarters vacated by Guards to other

staff at Hanumangirh, Churu, Ratan-garh, causing great frustration amongst the Essential Running Staff (Guards);

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar case in Tu^hlakabad was reported to the General Manager, Northern Railway; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO GUARDS

1458. DR. B. N. ANTANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Western Railway, Ajmer has issued orders, not to allot quarters to the Guards who were on the combined list of essential staff for allotment of Quarters after the issue of Railway Board's orders for the allotment of quarters to essential running staff on 30th August, 1969 from the combined pool;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Guards who were waiting for quarters on the combined essential pool have been put in a separate pool for running staff to wait for his turn till a quarter is vacated by the running staff of its pool;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Western Railway Mazdoor Sangh, Gandhidham, demanded quarters for the allotment to Guards from the double storeyed quarters constructed by Construction Deptt. but Divisional Personnel Officer, Ajmer refused vide his letter No. E(S)58/1/207 of July, 1970;

(d) whether it is also a fact that about 12 Goods Guards are living in Type I quarters and about 18 Guards including 5 Passenger Guards are waiting for quarters; and

(e) if the reply to parts (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, the steps that have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, as these were not meant for the running staff.

(d) Yes.

(e) For the purpose of implementing Board's Orders referred to in Part (a), the Divisional Superintendent, Ajmer is maintaining separate waiting lists for Essential running staff and other Essential staff. This ensures that the quarter vacated by any essential running staff is allotted to the person next in turn on the list of running staff.

BEGGARS IN THE COUNTRY

1459. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government about beggars in the country;

(b) the number of beggars in different States in the country;

(c) whether the number of the beggars is on the increase;

(d) if so, the detailed reasons for the increase in the number of beggars in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGA-NATH RAO): (a) No country-wide survey has been conducted.

(b) 1961 Census gives total number of beggars in the country to be 9,61,572 (See detailed statement on the next page).

(c) Compared with 1951 Census the number is on the increase;