

UPGRADING OF THE POST OF WIRELESS OPERATORS IN RAILWAYS

1218. SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Wireless Operators in the Railways have been upgraded since 1st May 1969 vide a Railway Board's circular ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Northern Railway have not yet implemented it even after a considerable period of more than eight months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by what time this is likely to be implemented by the Northern Railway?

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

(c) and (d) Necessary steps have been taken to expedite implementation which is expected to be done early.

SUPPLY OF STEEL BILLETS TO SMALL INDUSTRIES

1219. SHRI G. BARBORA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 60,000 tons of steel billets allotted for the small industries, only 150 tons are obtained by one re-rolling mill in Assam, while similar other industries are not getting steel billets at all; and

(b) if so, what arrangements are being made for the proper allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Billet allocations are made only to Registered Re-rollers on the basis of their assessed/licensed capacity. In Assam, there are two Re-rollers, viz., Assam Udyog & Kumar I & S Co. who are getting allotments of 150 tonnes and 266 tonnes of billets respectively per month.

4-12 R.S./ 10

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS TO CARRY SALT FROM KANDLA AND KUTCH AREAS

1220. DR. B. N. ANTANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of railway wagons to carry salt from Kutch, Kandla and other areas;

(b) whether Government have received representations to provide sufficient wagons to carry salt from there; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in view of the fact that this demand is satisfied so that the only large industry in Kutch does not suffer.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of wagons to carry salt as programmed. The demands placed for programmed salt from Kandla and other stations in Kutch area have been met currently. A few representations have, however, been received from the salt trade in respect of pending demands for non-programmed salt which enjoy the lowest priority, namely, item 'E'. There have been bulk registrations of heavy number of indents in February 1970 at Kandla and other stations in Kutch area for movement of non-programmed salt mostly to destinations on North Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways, movement of which has to be regulated over difficult routes taking into consideration the clearance capacity and commitments of the Railways for preferential movement of high priority essential commodities, such as, foodgrains and fertilisers. These pending indents are being cleared gradually according to movement capacity available.

(c) In spite of the above limitations, efforts have been made to ensure the supply of wagons to the maximum possible extent for clearance of salt from Kandla and other stations in Kutch area. During the period 1st September 1969 to 28th February, 1970, 7403 metre gauge and 696 broad gauge wagons of non-programmed salt were loaded. During the same period 715 metre gauge and 179 broad gauge wagons of programmed salt were also loaded from this area.