

FILLING UP OF POSTS OF STATION MASTERS, ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ETC. IN THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

760. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of posts of Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Cabin Assistant Station Masters and Cabin Masters in the scale of Rs. 250-325 and above, Zone-wise and Division-wise, as on the 31st March, 1970 in the Indian Railways;

(b) whether these posts are also filled up by Relieving Transportation Assistants,

(c) if so, their present number, Zone-wise and Division-wise,

(d) the number of those out of the present number of Relieving Transportation Assistants who were initially recruited as Assistant Station Masters; and

(e) the number of posts referred to in part (a) above which were filled up purely from the categories of SMS/ASMs, Zone-wise and Division-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) :

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

INDIAN OXYGEN LIMITED

761. SHRI BALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps against the Indian Oxygen Limited under the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) At present, Government is not contemplating any action under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 against Indian Oxygen Limited but if any matter relating to that company attracts the provisions of the said Act, it will be dealt with as required by the law.

HAND SIGNAL LAMPS USED BY TRAIN CLERKS

762. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the train clerks in the Indian Railways are provided with Hand signal lamps for the performance of their duties;

(b) whether it is a fact these lamps which work on Kerosene oil, endanger the lives of these clerks when they are required to work near wagons loaded with explosive materials, and

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide the said clerks with lamps which operate on batteries to prevent explosions and similar accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) :

(a) to (c) The question of providing electric torches instead of hand signal lamps to train clerks was discussed at the Permanent Negotiating Machinery meeting held between the Railway Board and organized labour and it was agreed that the proposal may be tried out as an experimental measure in one marshalling yard. Accordingly, as an experimental measure, torches were tried out in the Juhu marshalling yard of the Northern Railway. The experiment revealed that the proposal was not practicable. In fact the use of electric torches did not find favour even with the staff using them.

Under the extant rules, the staff are prohibited to bring any naked light near the wagons loaded with explosive material, which are required to be dealt with only during day light hours. There can be, thus, no question of any explosion on this account, unless the rules laid down in this regard are violated.

H. M. T. LTD.

763. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to set up a new H. M. T. watch factory in Jammu and Kashmir and to expand production at the Bangalore unit;

(b) if so, the investment cost of the new project and the programme of expansion; and

(c) whether Government propose to seek foreign collaboration for these programmes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investment cost is estimated at Rs. 425 lakhs for proposed watch factory at Kashmir and Rs. 366 lakhs for expansion of the existing watch factory at Bangalore. The envisaged targeted annual production capacity of the proposed factory at Kashmir is 300,000 watches and of Bangalore expansion is 200,000 numbers of automatic gent's watches with day-date mechanism.

(c) Government have approved of the proposals submitted by H. M. T. for expansion of their watch production with Japanese collaboration.

IMPROVEMENTS/REFORMS ACHIEVED IN THE RAILWAYS

764. KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT:
SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the extent to which he has been able to clean up the administration and provide better amenities to the travelling public in the Railways since he took over the portfolio?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA) : As a result of the implementation of the 11-Point Programme, special drives to improve various aspects of Railway working and to eradicate mal-practices have been started. Some results are already discernible and improvements have been noticed in various services and amenities provided by the Railways to the travelling public. The full impact of the measures taken will be felt as the Programme is progressively implemented.

SHIFTING OF FACTORIES FROM WEST BENGAL

765. SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for summarily rejecting the applications submitted by industrialists who wished to move their factories out of West Bengal ;

(b) the reasons for which these industrialists wanted to shift their industries; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect the industries there from anti-social elements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) All applications for licences for shifting of industrial undertakings are examined on merits having regard to the facts of each case following the procedure laid down for the purpose. No such application has been rejected summarily.

(b) The reasons generally given for shifting of industrial units varied from case to case and, inter alia, covered better availability of raw materials in other regions, inadequate demand for certain products in this region as compared to some other region and various aspects of production costs, including labour productivity and performance in some cases.

(c) This is primarily a matter of law and order and is being attended to by the Government.

ZONAL RAILWAY USERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

766. SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the General Manager of the Central Railway had tive Committee for Central Railway to of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee for Central Railway to the effect that on reconstitution of the Committee, a list of all the members will be supplied to members at least one month before the elections;

(b) if so, the reasons for not honouring this assurance at the meeting of the said Committee held in Bombay on the 21st July, 1970 and the reasons for conducting the elections without supplying the lists of members not even a fortnight before the elections, thereby giving an advantage to the members of