

though by that time they had completed five year; of service in officers cadre;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that they had proceeded on leave before they could actually be reverted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that when they came from leave after fifteen days they were put to work as Assistant Engineers; and

(d) if so, the reasons for treating a break in their service as Assistant Engineers for the period they were on leave and the grounds for not giving them increment for that period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARI LAL NANDA): (a) No. Six Assistant Engineers were reverted in 1961: due to the shrinkage in cadre as a result of completion of certain construction works. Only one of them had at the time of reversion put in nearly five years service in Class II.

(b) All of them proceeded on leave from the date of their reversion from Class II.

(c) Only one of them was promoted to class II after having remained on leave for 17 days. The rest remained on leave for periods nearly ranging from eight months to 15 months.

(d) They were promoted to Class II on occurrence of fresh vacancies. Since there were no vacancies in Class II, it could not be certified that they would have continued in Class II but for going on leave and as such the period of leave cannot be treated as continuous in Class II and also for the purpose of increment.

FRESH ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL

1553. SHRI INDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the dissolution of the West Bengal Assembly,

Government have taken any decision for holding fresh elections in that State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES IN STATES

1554. SHRI INDER SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for giving financial assistance to industries in the States;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the time by when the scheme will be ready and the nature of the industries that will come within the purview of this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) On the basis of the recommendations made to the Committee of the National Development Council by the Pande and Wanchoo Working Groups, a decision had been taken that the Central Government may give an outright grant of subsidy amounting to one-tenth of the fixed capital investment of new units, whether in the small scale or other sector of industry, so long as the total fixed capital investment did not exceed Rs. 50 lakhs each. This grant would be available for new units to be set up in two selected districts in each of the 9 States identified by the Pande Working Group as industrially backward and one district each of the other States and Union territories.

The details of the scheme for the 10 per cent outright grant of subsidy are being worked out and as soon as it is approved, the scheme will be ready for implementation after the choice of the entitled districts is finalised in consultation with the respective State Governments.

This scheme for 10 per cent subsidy is in addition to the arrangements that have been made with Industrial Financial Corporation of India, the Industrial Development Bank of India and other financial institutions for extending financial assistance on concessional terms to small and medium-sized industrial enterprises in a number of backward districts that have been selected by the Central Government in consultation with the respective State Governments.

**DEMARICATION OF SPHERES FOR
EMPLOYEES' PARTICIPATION IN
ADMINISTRATION**

1555. SHRI INDER SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway employees have recently urged for a clear demarcation of spheres for their participation in the administration of the railways; and

(b) if so, whether the delimitation of spheres of work in this connection has been done; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): (a) and (b) As a result of discussions recently held with recognised Federations and Unions, the question of definition [extension] of areas of participation of labour and management is being examined. v

ISSUE OF INDUSTRIAL LICENCES

1556. SHRI INDER SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have streamlined the procedure for the issue of industrial licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications that are pending disposal, itemwise; and

(d) the time by when they will be disposed of?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government have always been alive to the need for minimising delays in the disposal of industrial licence applications and, wherever feasible, the licensing procedures have been steam-lined. Every effort is being made to ensure that decisions are taken and conveyed expeditiously. A system of issue of letters of intent to the applicants has also been in vogue for the past few years so that the applicants could go ahead with the finalisation of their proposals for import of machinery, foreign collaboration etc., at the earliest. Powers have been delegated to the administrative Ministries to decide certain types of industrial licensing cases without reference to the Licensing Committee. The meetings of Sub-Committee of the Licensing Committee are now held every fortnight to dispose of the industrial licensing cases expeditiously. Meetings are also held periodically by the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to review the position of pending applications and instructions are issued wherever necessary for their expeditious disposal. As a result of these measures, the number of long-pending cases has been considerably reduced in recent months.

(c) 442 applications out of those received upto the 31st December, 1969, are pending disposal. A statement showing the industry-wise break-up of the pending applications is attached.

Out of 1022 applications, excluding Carrying-On-Business applications, received during the first half of 1970,