

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : Broad guidelines for resolving the dispute have been communicated to the Railway according to which in respect of the fixed annual payment at the rate of Rs. 44,000 awarded by Divisional Commissioner, Bhagalpur in 1933 and frozen on 31-3-1937, the Municipality can continue taxing the Railway properties covered by the above-said award with due allowance for increase in rateable value as permissible under the rules, and also receive service charges in respect of the properties that have come up after 1-4-1937. Further details are being worked out by the Eastern Railway in consultation with the Municipal Authorities and it is hoped that a decision will be reached shortly.]

CONVERSION OF TRIVANDRUM-COCHIN RAIL LINK

*172. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to convert the Trivandrum—Cochin metre gauge line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b) The proposal is for conversion of the Ernakulam-Quilon-Trivandrum section from metre gauge to broad gauge. Surveys for this conversion are in progress. A decision regarding the actual conversion of the line can be taken only after the surveys are completed and the results thereof known.

EMPLOYMENT TO UNEMPLOYED ENGINEERS

* 173. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently asked certain public undertakings like the Indian Oil Company to afford employment opportunities to qualified engineers in the country;

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(b) if so, the names of the Public Undertakings who have agreed to extend employment facilities to the unemployed engineers; and

(c) the total number of engineers likely to be thus absorbed in these undertakings as against the total number at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CONFIRMATION OF STAFF EMPLOYED IN ENGINEERING WORKSHOP, ARKONAM

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the staff employed in the Engineering Workshop, Arkonam on the Southern Railway, are still considered temporary although they have put in a continuous service ranging from 5 to 20 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not confirming them;

(c) what are the basic principles adopted for their confirmation; and

(d) the time by when these employees are likely to be confirmed in service ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to orders issued by the Railway Board, Skilled, Semi-skilled and Unskilled staff of workshops in the initial grade of recruitment should be treated as confirmed for all purposes on completion of 3 years' continuous service in a workshop whether they are working against permanent or temporary posts.

MAIL/EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN MADRAS AND BOMBAY

*175. SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the Express and Mail trains running between Madras and Bombay stop at Muddanuru and Kamaia-