

promotion to the post of Transportation Inspector, Trains Controller and Movement Inspector were not allowed to appear in the selection held on Western Railway at Bombay and in the selection of Trains Controllers held in Ajmer-Division at Ajmer; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) A selection was held for drawing up a panel of 8. According to the standing instructions, the seniormost 32 persons among those who had applied had to be considered and no Guard Grade 'C' was within that field of selection.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF SALOONS

937. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has imposed certain restrictions on the use of saloons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No new restrictions have been imposed on the use of Saloons/Inspection Carriages but their haulage by Mail/Express trains has been further curtailed.

(b) Certain categories of trains are prohibited for the attachment of Saloons/Inspection Carriages. In other trains, the haulage of Saloons/Inspection Carriages is regulated by a graded system of entitlements based on the classification of the train.

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के कर्मचारियों की छंटनी

938. श्री राजनारायण : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले दो वर्षों में पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के कितने कर्मचारियों की छंटनी की गई;

(ख) उन में से कितने कर्मचारी तीन वर्ष से अधिक समय से नौकरी में थे; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि यह छंटनी उन्हें सरकार द्वारा पहले दिए गए आश्वासनों के विपरीत है ?

RETRENCHMENT OF N. E. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

938. SHRI RAJNARAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the North Eastern Railway who have been retrenched during the last two years;

(b) the number of employees out of them who had put in more than three years of service; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this retrenchment is contrary to the assurances given to them by Government in the past ?]

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० पुनाचा) : (क) से (ग) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

[THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.]

ALLOYS AND SPECIAL STEEL

939. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that alloys and special steel produced in the country are sub-standard and this has made the products unpopular;

(b) whether the products are facing similar handicaps in foreign markets also;

(c) the total annual production and consumption of these products in India and the total quantity exported to foreign countries;

(d) the total imports of these products every year; and

(e) whether any steps have been taken by Government to standardise these products to increase their competitive capacity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Madam. It is not a fact that all the alloys and special steels produced in the country are of sub-standard quality. Generally, the quality of the products of alloy steels plants is quite

†[]English translation.

satisfactory, but the products of some other may not be of the Same standard. The Question of materials becoming unpopular due to substandard quality does not, therefore, arise.

(b) Does not arise, as no exports of these categories of steel have been made to foreign countries.

(c) Information is not readily available.

(d) The total imports of tool, alloy and special steel during the last three years have been as under :—

Year	Quantity M/T	Value (Rs. in '000)
1965-66 . . .	129,459	204,931
1966-67 . . .	85,552	235,054*
1967-68 . . .	81,704	271,353*

*Post devaluation.

(e) The Indian Standards Institute has standardised most of the alloy and special Steels and has issued a number of pamphlets. Indian manufacturers have been advised to manufacture such steel according to ISI specifications.

शाहजहानपुर-सीतापुर सेक्शन पर जीर्ण इंजनों तथा गाड़ियों का उपयोग

940. श्री गणेश लाल चौधरी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर रेलवे के शाहजहानपुर-सीतापुर सेक्शन में जिन इंजनों तथा गाड़ियों का उपयोग किया जा रहा है, वे बड़ी जीर्ण अवस्था में हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि वर्षा होने पर पानी डिब्बों में टपकता रहता है जिससे यात्रियों को बहुत असुविधा होती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

DILAPIDATED ENGINES AND BOGIES USED ON SHAHJAHANPUR-SITAPUR SECTION

940. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the engines and bogies being used on the Shahjahanpur-Sitapur Section of the Northern Railway are in a very dilapidated condition;

(b) whether it is a fact that water leaks into the compartments when it rains resulting in great inconvenience to the passengers; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to improve the situation?!

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० पुनाचा) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी नहीं । इस प्रकार की कोई शिकायत भी नहीं मिली है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता है ।

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No.

(b) No. Neither has any complaint of this nature been received.

(c) Does not arise.]

ASSISTANCE TO NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

941. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give aid or assistance to newspapers as a result of their being treated as full-fledged industry;

(b) whether the system for a the import of printing machinery has been liberalised; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) It has been decided that any industrial concern engaged or proposing to engage itself with its own printing press, in the printing of books or newspapers etc., can be regarded

†[] English translation.