

South Central Zone were not permitted to come and so the South Central Zone is suffering for want of adequate staff?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We will not allow that to happen and the efficiency of the South Central Railway will not be allowed to suffer due to shortage of officers or of any other type of staff.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The Railway Administration has obtained options from about 2,000 employees employed at Hubli and Vijayawada, as to whether they are willing to go to the South Zone from the erstwhile Southern Railways. Are these optees likely to be transferred to the South Zone? What is the position? What happens to the option obtained from them?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We will be in a position to give the details later on when we have examined the whole position.

CONSTRUCTION OF POONA-MIRAJ BROAD GAUGE LINE

*487. SHRI G. R. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in respect of construction of a broad gauge Railway line from Poona to Miraj on the South Central Railway; and

(b) when the work is scheduled to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) An overall progress of 33.5 per cent has been achieved on this project up to end of September, 1966.

(b) The target date for completion is December, 1968.

SHRI G. R. PATIL: May I ask whether the full amount of compensation for the acquisition of land has been paid to the persons concerned?

SHRI SHAM NATH: Madam, I require notice to answer this question. I however presume that the claims of the people whose lands were acquired have been dealt with and paid. But I am not sure, and so I want notice.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what progress has been made to extend this Poona-Miraj lines up to Hospet via Hubli?

SHRI SHAM NATH: That is a different project, Madam, and it is not possible for me to say by what time that project will be complete.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister what were the scheduled dates for the commencement and completion of this project of the Poona-Miraj broad-gauge line? Is it a fact that the work did not start as was announced, even though it was to be completed by 1967? Why has delay been caused in this project.

SHRI SHAM NATH: The work is quite a difficult one because it has to be executed without disturbing the smooth flow of traffic. And then this line has to be realigned so as to bring it closer to Satara and also to bring Sangli in the same line. These are the difficulties. But it is expected that it may be possible to complete the work before the target date.

SENIORITY OF WELFARE INSPECTORS | HOSTEL WARDENS | SERGEANTS

*488. SHRI A. C. GILBERT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seniority of the Welfare Inspectors and that of Hostel Wardens | Sergeants of the Zonal Training School on Western and Northern Railways is combined;

(b) what is the avenue of promotion for these categories of staff;