

(d) whether the decision has resulted in hardship to the staff due to reversion; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the hardship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) The decision was taken in 1964 with the concurrence of the Union Public Service Commission and is based on similar provision made by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the rules for similar examinations held by them for the Central Secretariat Service.

(b) and (c) In implementation of the Railway Board Secretariat Service Scheme 30 vacancies in the Section Officer's grade were to be filled on the basis of this examination and whoever was eligible to appear in the examination was equally eligible to compete for all the vacancies.

(d) Pending holding of the Limited Competitive Examination and declaration of the results *ad hoc* promotions had been made to the grade of Section Officers which had to be reversed while promoting the 30 candidates successful in the examination. This naturally resulted in certain reversions.

(e) The manner in which the hardships due to reversions could be alleviated is under examination.

MINISTERS MEETING WITH SECRETARY GENERAL U.N.C.T.A.D.

***40. SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary-General of U.N. Conference on Trade and Development met him recently; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The discussions with the Secretary-General dealt with the steps to be taken for implementing the recommendations of the first United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development, and covered matters relating to the preparation for the second session of the Conference and to the proposal for holding a meeting of the '77' developing countries preparatory to the second Conference.

ACCIDENT DUE TO EXPLOSION ON N.F. RAILWAY

***41 { DIWAN CHAMAN LALL :
SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :
SHRI RAM SAHAI :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a serious accident, due to an explosion, took place recently on the N.F. Railway;

(b) if so, the number of casualties, the extent of loss suffered by the Railways and the amount of money paid as compensation;

(c) whether this explosion was due to sabotage; and

(d) whether any hostile Nagas were involved in this explosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to the latest information, 57 and 41 persons are reported to have been killed and 72 and 81 persons were injured in the two explosions at Lumding and Diphu Railway Stations respectively. The loss sustained by Railways has been estimated at Rs. 2.33 lakhs. The amount of compensation will be known only after the work of the Claims Commissioner is completed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is under investigation.

REDUCTION OF TRAINS IN SEALDAH—BONGAON SECTION ON EASTERN RAILWAY

***42. { SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of trains in Sealdah—Bongaon Section on the Eastern Railway has been reduced since April, 1966; and