

development of industries in the territory, establish and manage industrial estates, develop industrial areas, assist industries financially, etc. The Bill has still to receive the assent of the President.

SHORTAGE OF BABY FOOD

*511. SHRI G. M. MIR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is still great shortage of baby food in the country; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government for stepping up the production of baby food?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISRA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Additional capacity to augment the base for production has already been licensed. All possible facilities are being afforded to the units licensed for production of baby food for achieving early implementation.

POSTS OF SUPERVISORS IN TRAIN LIGHTING DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS

*512. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of supervisors in the Train Lighting Department filled by promotions during the last five years on all Zonal Railways; and

(b) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, promoted to such posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

RE-CLASSIFICATION OF DIESEL PUMP OPERATORS IN RAILWAYS

*513. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diesel pump operators, working on the Indian railways have recently been re-classified and downgraded as semi-skilled workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the change involves reduction in wages; if so, how many workers are affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from Railways and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

GAZETTED STATUS FOR RAILWAY DOCTORS

*520. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that doctors appointed under the Railways are not given a gazetted status; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): No, Sir. Doctors on the Railways are in the following classes:—

Class I—Chief Medical Officers and District Medical Officers.

Class II—Assistant Medical Officers.

Class III—Assistant Surgeons.

While classes I and II are gazetted categories, Assistant Surgeons in class III are non-gazetted; they are, however, given honorary gazetted rank after completion of 5 years' service and promoted to class II after being duly selected and thus gain gazetted status in course of time.