

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a)

Skilled artisans 269.
Unskilled khalasis.. 779

(b) No, only 27 skilled artisans and 62 unskilled khalasis have been granted authorised scales of pay and the cases of 31 skilled artisans and 52 unskilled khalasis are under scrutiny.

(c) They are not eligible.

DECLINE IN EXPORTS

267. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's exports have shown a decline in the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decline was due to reduced values of exports of vegetable oils and seeds on the one hand and sugar on the other owing to increased domestic requirements and fall in international prices.

(c) Effective steps are being taken in consultation with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to increase the production of these commodities so as to meet the domestic needs to a reasonable extent and to ensure sufficient surpluses for export.

DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAINS

268. SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of goods trains or engines or wagons in goods trains being derailed during the last three months;

(b) the main causes of these derailments; and

(c) the number of other trains especially Mail and Express whose running was effected by such derailments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) There were 227 such accidents on the Indian Government Railways during the months May, '66 to July, 1965.

(b) A statement giving the causes of these derailments is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The running of 297 passenger carrying trains was affected by such accidents, out of which 126 were Mail and Express trains.

STATEMENT

Cause	No. of accidents
Failure of Railway staff	107
Failure of other than Railway staff	4
Failure of equipment :	
Mechanical	36
Track	20
Accidental	10
TOTAL	177

NOTE.—In three cases, the causes of the derailments could not be established and 47 cases are still under investigation.

ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEET FACTORIES

269. SHRI Y. A. REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Asbestos Cement Sheet Factories in the country; and

(b) where they are located?

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

(b) Mulund (Bombay), Calcutta, Kymore, Podanur, Dalmianagar, Hyderabad, Ballabgarh (near Delhi) and Ahmedabad.

AMALGAMATION OF COLLIERIES

270. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are considering the introduction of changes in Mineral Concession Rules to facilitate amalgamation of small collieries by the Voluntary Amalgamation Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): No, Sir.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM YERAGUDIPAD TO NANDYAL

271. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the route from Yeragudipad to Nandyal *via* Proddathur Yammalamandugun, Nossam and Koilkuntla was surveyed thirty years ago;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to construct a railway line on the route during the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAM NATH): (a) A survey was carried out for this line during 1908-09.

(b) and (c) Proposals for new lines to be taken up in the Fourth Five Year Plan are yet to be finalised. The funds anticipated for new lines in the Fourth Plan are very limited and even of this almost two thirds will be needed for completion of the works already in progress. This line which is not

likely to prove viable is not likely to find a place in the Fourth Plan, when the list has obviously to be very selective for want of funds.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONNEL BRANCH IN THE RAILWAYS

272. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Personnel Branch was established in the Railways;

(b) the object of its establishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) A separate Personnel Branch was first established in the ex-North Western Railway on 1st October, 1924. Separate Personnel Officers on the other Government Railways (namely, East Indian and East Bengal Railways) then existing were appointed between 1925 and 1930. Subsequently, Personnel Officers were appointed from time to time on other Railways as work increased. In 1945 the Railway Board took a policy decision that the Personnel Branch should be a distinct organisation on Railways.

(b) The object of establishing the Personnel Branch was two-fold: firstly, to relieve the executive officer from details of establishment work thereby making it possible to increase the efficiency and scope of executive superintendence, and secondly to concentrate the personnel work under an officer who could render expert advice.

LEAVE RULES FOR RAILWAY PRESS AND FORMS AND STATIONERY DEPOTS AT GORAKHPUR

273. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the rules governing the leave facilities of the staff of the Railway Press and of the Forms and Stationery Depots at Gorakhpur are adhered to strictly or deviations from these rules are also made?