

(b) whether it is also a fact that this irrational restriction in the age bars employees/officers belonging to SC/ST to reach the level of DRM;

(c) whether Government has received any representations to remove this restriction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) An upper age limit of 52 years is being followed for short-listing of officers for the posts of Divisional Railway Managers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A communication dated 02/07/2012 from Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians alongwith a copy of a letter from Shri P.L. Punia, Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, was received, wherein a request was made for reviewing the policy relating to posting of Divisional Railway Managers. The matter was examined in this Ministry and no change in age limit was contemplated as the work of Divisional Railway Managers involves gruelling routine making heavy demands on the officer's mental and physical resources.

Condition of Mumbai suburban train services

2473. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to improve the miserable travelling condition in Mumbai local suburban train services;

(b) the current status of extending suburban services to Dahanu Road which was promised by the then Railway Minister; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) To give the relief to daily commuters, the following steps have been taken to improve the suburban services of Mumbai area:

128 AC/DC EMU rakes with new State-of-the-art technology, having improved ventilation system, better seating arrangement and aesthetics, have already been inducted into service since 2007-08. With the induction of these rakes:

- 546 numbers of additional services (339 in Central Railway and 207 in Western Railway) have been introduced.
- 1077 numbers of services (650 in Central Railway and 427 in Western Railway) have been augmented from 9 car to 12 car.

(b) and (c) In the Railway Budget 2012-13, additional services in the Mumbai suburban including that on Virar-Dahanu Road section have been announced. The services announced in the Railway Budget are normally introduced during the course of financial year.

Incidents of theft and crime in railway yards and godowns

†2474. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of and has taken note of the increasing cases of theft and incidents of crime in railway godowns and yards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during last three years, division-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Railways to check recurrence of such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The number of cases of theft/pilferage of consignments over Indian Railways has decreased during the year 2011 as compared to the year 2010. Number of such cases reported during the last three years that is 2009, 2010 and 2011 over Indian Railways, Division-wise is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Following steps are being taken by the Railways to prevent theft/pilferage of consignments :-

- (i) Goods trains carrying valuable commodities are being escorted by Railway Protection Force in vulnerable and affected sections.
- (ii) Armed pickets are provided at black spots to prevent criminal interference with the goods trains.
- (iii) Criminals apprehended are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.