

For recruitment through Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), vacancies in various zonal railways have to be collected and compiled centrally in the Ministry's office and then indents are placed on various RRBs for recruitment. Thus the recruitment process takes a very long time to complete. Once the selection is finalised, the panel is received in the Ministry's office for approval. After approval of the panel, it is again sent back to the RRB for final apportionment of candidates to the concerned Zonal Railways. In the earlier system to which now the RPF is reverting, the vacancies are calculated Zone-wise and approved by the competent authority. Recruitments shall be handled by the Recruitment Committees consisting of officers authorised for the work, in accordance with the Railway Protection Force Rules, 1987. This process will save considerable time. In view of this advantage, it has been decided to revert back from recruitment through RRBs.

Construction of flag station at Tangra

145. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken by him to construct a flag station at Tangra on Kankungathi Chord line, under Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) no, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Railway lines between Cuddapah and Bangalore

146. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether request has been received for new Railway Lines from Cuddapah to Bangalore *via* Madanapalli, Bhadrachalam; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently requested for taking up construction of new rail line from Cuddapah to Bangalore via Madanapalli. Bhadrachalam is not covered in the demand and it also does not fall on the proposed alignment.

(b) An updating survey for Cuddapah-Bangalore via Madanapalli new rail line has been included in the Budget 2004-05.

Simplification of the claim process

†147. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective steps are being taken by Government to simplify the settlement process regarding the claims of the kith and kin of the people killed in Rail accidents and claims related to the return of rail tickets and thefts of the parcels/goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of applications for such claims received by the Railways in each Railway Zone during the last three years; and

(d) the number of claims settled/pending out of the said claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a constant endeavour of Railway administration to explore ways and means to simplify the claims process relating to compensation to victims of rail accidents, claims related to refund of rail tickets and theft of parcels/goods. The Following steps have been taken in the recent years to expedite the claim settling process;

1. Accident related claims—

- (i) Passenger can now file claims for compensation at the originating station, or destination station or where the ticket was purchased or the place of residence as against only at the place of occurrence of accident, as was the case earlier.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.