

- (b) the age of superannuation of the employees working in the Ministry;
- (c) whether the provision of granting extension in service exists for them, if so, the number of years for which extension of service can be granted; and
- (d) whether the present Chief Executive Officer/Secretary of the above Bank, who has completed 60 years of age, has been granted any service extension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) N.E. and E.C. Railway employees Multi-State Primary Co-operative Bank Limited, Gorakhpur is a society registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 and Sub-Rules framed thereunder of the State concerned and is overall under the supervision of the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The employees of Co-operative Societies are engaged by the Co-operative Societies themselves. Railway administration have no jurisdiction over the administrative, financial, managerial and service matter of the employees as also day to day working of the Society or any other matter of the Society.

(b) The age of superannuation of the employees working in the Ministry is 60 years. However, as far as superannuation of employees of Cooperative Banks/Societies is concerned, the age of superannuation is governed by regulations framed under Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.

(c) and (d) The Railway administration have no jurisdiction as they are governed by the Rules framed under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 under the supervision of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

Bomb disposal and detection squad for Railway Protection Force

787. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) does not have its own bomb disposal and detection squad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reasons for supply of only a few items of bomb disposal and detection kit to RPF during the last five years and that too being lying idle and have expired; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to supply complete kit to RPF in order to prevent wastage of resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order over Railways is the statutory responsibility of States which is being discharged by them through the Government Railways Police (GRP).

To supplement efforts of GRP and to avert any mishap in station premises and trains, 278 sniffer dogs have been deployed by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) also for detection of explosive items over Indian Railway. Equipment like bomb basket, bomb suit, drilling machine, thermal cutter, telescopic prod, non linear junction detector, under trolley search mirror, deep search metal detector, etc. have been procured for handling of explosive substances over some zonal railways.

(c) and (d) Strengthening and upgradation of security infrastructure is an ongoing process. Bomb detection and disposal system forms part of an Integrated Security System (ISS) that envisages strengthening surveillance mechanism at 202 sensitive stations over Indian Railways. Issues concerning availability of eligible vendors, specification, inspection of equipment, etc. were raised by some of the Zonal Railways. These issues have since been addressed and necessary action is being initiated by concerned zones for acquisition of items under ISS accordingly.

Providing world class facilities to passengers

788. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations developed by Government to provide world class facilities to passengers across the country so far, Zone-wise;

(b) whether Government has sought participation of private sector in modernisation of railway stations across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the response of the private sector thereto;

(c) whether Railways have invited bids from private investors for modernisation of stations and if so, the details of offers received so far; and

(d) whether Government has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with foreign countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?