

ployed in monitoring stations to check the working of other stations.

(b) They are treated like all other railway employees who work in shift duties and no special facilities are provided to them.

(c) and (d). For purposes of allotment of quarters Wireless Operators are treated as "Essential Staff" and every effort is made to allot them residential accommodation near their place of work.

Purchase of Katakhal-Lalabazar Railway

440. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abandoned the idea of purchasing the Katakhal-Lalabazar Railway till 1974;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the essential standards of amenities are lacking on this section of the Railway; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) and (b). The purchase of privately owned Railways is considered as and when the option to purchase each line falls due. The purchase of the Katakhal-Lalabazar Railway was considered when the last option fell due on 31-3-1964, but was not found justified. The purchase will be considered again in 1974, when the next option falls due. It may be added that Katakhal-Lalabazar Railway is already being worked by the Government and the standard of management and service to the public is the same as on the contiguous Government Railway which works this line.

(c) and (d). All stations on this Railway are provided with basic amenities such as drinking water, passenger platforms, waiting halls,

latrines, benches etc. Additional amenities are provided from time to time on the suggestions made by the Regional Users Consultative Committee and Railway Users Amenities Committee.

Closing Coal Mines in Giridih Area

**441. { Dr. U. Misra;
Dr. Ranen Sen;
Shri Daji;
Shri Warior:**

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of mines belonging to the National Coal Development Corporation in Giridih area proposed to be closed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) The following pits belonging to the National Coal Development Corporation are being closed in the Giridih area:

- (1) Kolimaran Pit with effect from 1-4-1965.
- (2) Bhadua No. 10(B) Pit with effect from 1-4-1965.
- (3) Jubilee Pit with effect from 1-11-1965.

(b) These pits are being closed due to exhaustion of reserves.

Collision at Kolaghat near Howrah

**442. { Shrimati Maimoona Sultan;
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav;
Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia;
Shrimati Laxmi Bai:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Purulia-Howrah passenger train collided with a goods train at Kolaghat Station near Howrah on the South Eastern Railway on the 29th January, 1965;