

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) to (c) : Sir, This proposal has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of resources and line capacity constraints on the section enroute.

**Foreign Expertise for Road Modernisation**

**676. SHRI B.V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to seek foreign expertise for quality control relating to road construction ;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering the proposal of the Planning Commission in this regard ;

(c) if so, what were the suggestions made by the Planning Commission for road modernisation in the country ;

(d) whether the Planning Commission's suggestions in this regard were considered by his Ministry ;

(e) if so, to what extent the Ministry has agreed ; and

(f) the steps being taken to seek the foreign expertise for road modernisation in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) : No, Sir.

(b) to (f) : Do not arise.

**Central Control of Universities**

**677. SHRI ANIL BASU :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to initiate legislation to bring

all the universities in the country under the Central control ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the salient features of the said proposal ?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (K.C. PANT) :** (a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

**Absorption of Project/Open Line Labourers**

**678. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for absorption of Project/Open Line labourers in the Railways into regular employment ;

(b) number of casual labourers in Indian Railways in project/open line who are awaiting absorption in regular employment ; and

(c) whether casual labourers in the Railways enjoy the facilities/amenities available to regular employees like pay scale, free pass, medical facilities/leave etc. ?

**THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) Casual labour are not automatically, by mere passage of time, absorbed in regular employment. Their absorption in regular service depends upon factors like availability of vacancies in the relevant unit of absorption, suitability for regular service and length of service as casual labour. However, with a view to enlarge the number benefiting by such absorption, virtually all Group 'D' (Class IV) vacancies (with a few exceptions like workshops and appointments made on compassionate grounds, against sports quota etc.) are at present being filled from amongst screened/empannelled casual labour and substitutes. For this purpose, instructions exist that after working out vacancies for each