

and children, of the same class as the retired Railway Servants was eligible to at the time of service as per scale mentioned below:

Category	Number of Passes admissible	
	With Railway service of 20 years or more but less than 25 years	With minimum Railway service of 25 years
i) Group A&B	2 sets in one year	3 sets in one year
ii) Group 'C'	1 set in one year	2 sets in one year
iii) Group 'D'		1 set in alternate year
a) Retired prior to 01.07.93	Nil	1 set in one year
b) Retired on or after 01.07.93	Nil	1 set in one year

So far as medical facilities are concerned, they are being provided through two schemes, namely, Retired Employees Contributory Health Scheme and Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme. Under the former Scheme only outdoor medical facilities to self and spouse are available on nominal monthly contribution. Whereas under later scheme outdoor as well as indoor medical facilities are provided on one time contribution basis. Provision also exists for 50% reimbursement of cost of treatment taken from Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals in referred cases only.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Shortage of Ticket Checking Staff

1168. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of ticket checking staff;

(b) the strength of such staff during the last three years, Zone-wise; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government to strengthen the staff strength?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The steps taken are as under:—

i) Identification of suitable staff from the surplus staff and using them for ticket checking purposes after giving them training;

ii) Filling up vacancies in the ticket checking cadre

by promoting from Group 'D' to Group 'C' category;

iii) Creating of additional posts of ticket checking staff against matching surrender; and

iv) Recruitment through Railway Recruitment Boards.

[English]

Poultry Birds

*1169. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poultry birds in the country as on December 31, 1994, State-wise;

(b) the per capita availability of chicken/meat in our country as compared to that of Asian countries and the world as a whole; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage production of more poultry meat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Statewise number of poultry birds enumerated in the country is given in the enclosed statements.

(b) the annual per capita availability of poultry meat is as under:

India : 0.453 kg

Asia : 3.880 kg

World : 8.259 kg

Source: FAO Production Year Book

(c) Following steps have been initiated to encourage production of poultry meat:

(i) Improvement in the availability of quality chicken to farmers;

(ii) Training facilities;

(iii) Setting up of Poultry Development Corporations/Federations for ensuring supply of balanced poultry feed at reasonable prices.

STATEMENT

Number of Poultry Birds as per 1987 Census State-Wise (in thousands) (Provisional)

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	Total Poultry
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39045
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1121
3.	Assam	11451
4.	Bihar	15880
5.	Gujarat	5490
6.	Goa	608
7.	Haryana	5336
8.	Himachal Pradesh	753
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3805
10.	Karnataka	15689
11.	Kerala	17993

Sl. No.	State/UTs.	Total Poultry
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9371
13.	Maharashtra	24828
14.	Manipur	3018
15.	Meghalaya	1590
16.	Mizoram	838
17.	Nagaland	1124
18.	Orissa	12597
19.	Punjab	15276a
20.	Rajasthan	2605
21.	Sikkim	254
22.	Tamil Nadu	21567
23.	Tripura	1865
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9317
25.	West Bengal	35823a
Union Territories		
1.	A & N Island	433
2.	Chandigarh	169
3.	D & N Haveli	100
4.	Delhi	220a
5.	Lakshadweep	51
6.	Pondicherry	108
All India		258335

a : States which have not conducted the census and have provided estimated number based on earlier censuses.

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics and State Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

Development of Railway Station in West Bengal

1170. SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to modernise and development of Sealdah-Lalgola Railways Station in West Bengal under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for electrification from Krishnanagar to Berhampore;

(d) if so, the steps adopted towards the making of double line; and

(e) whether the Government have agreed to introduce DMU coaches from Ranaghat Junction to Lalgola Station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Modernisation/development of Railway Stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by the traffic needs subject to availability of funds and relative priorities of various stations. Accordingly, works of provision/extension of platform shelters at Sealdaah, Kharda, Halisahar, Badkulla, Dum Dum, Kalinarayanpur, Chakdah, Lalgola, Kanchrapara, Palta & Krishnanagar City; provision of foot-over-bridges at Bhagwangola & Debagram; provision of public address system at Nalhati, Barrackpore & Ranaghat; provision of train indicator boards at Barrackpore,

Ranaghat & Dum Dum; improvement to circulating area at Sealdah & Beharampur Court; improvement to water supply at Murshidabad, Dum Dum & Kalyani; improvement to illumination and modernisation of stations at Kankinara, Shyamnagar, Ichapur & Palta, etc. have been taken up.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal, at present, for introduction of DMU services on Ranaghat-Lalgola Section.

[Translation]

Meeting of Food Secretaries

1171. SHRI BOLLABULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Food Secretary called a meeting of State Food Secretaries in January, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the sugar production of the country was discussed;

(c) whether Food Secretaries of the Sugar producing States gave assessment of sugar production;

(d) if so, whether any full assessment has been made by the Union Government in regard to sugar production in the country; and

(e) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to import sugar in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per present estimates, the production of sugar during the 1994-95 sugar season would be about 120.0 lakh tonnes.

(e) Till now, STC/MMTC have entered into forward contracts for import of sugar of about 3.63 lakh tonnes for July/August, 1995 deliveries. Further import of sugar will depend upon the production trends which will be reviewed again after March, 1995.

[English]

Fish/Shrimp Culture

1172. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total fish and shrimp production both marine and inland during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote fish/shrimp culture; and

(c) the Central as well as external assistance provided to the States for this purpose during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise?