

(c) and (d). The recommendations made by the Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee will be duly examined and taken into consideration while finalising Railways Sixth Five Year Plan, 1980—85, in consultation with Planning Commission. Indian Railway network covers the vast Indian Sub-Continent and their problems are different in depth and dimension as compared to countries like Malaysia, Algeria and Sri Lanka.

Vacancies existing in DTC Board

3739. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the existing DTC Board there are two vacancies of members for the last 8-9 months;

(b) whether Members of Parliament have repeatedly urged for giving representation of Inter-State, Educational, and Scheduled Tribe Organisations on the said Board during the last one year;

(c) whether the Inter-State interest was represented on the D.T.C. Advisory Council during 1975-76 and 1976-77, and so also the interests of Education etc;

(d) is it a fact that nearly half of the term of the Board has elapsed;

(e) by what time the Government will grant representation to these interests; and

(f) whether the Government will give preference to those persons who have experience of Membership of the D.T.C. Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):
(a) to (c). Yes Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The Board was last reconstituted for a period of three years with effect from 1st May, 1979.

(e) and (f). Two persons are likely to be nominated by the Government shortly for appointment on DTC

Board. The operation of DTC services on inter-State routes is of limited nature and it is not considered essential that this interest should also be represented on the DTC Board. The functions of a member of the DTC Advisory Council are also of limited nature and that experience itself cannot be considered as a criterion to appoint a person on the DTC Board. The members of the Board are appointed as per guidelines laid down by Bureau of Public Enterprises.

Staff in Sub-Regional Offices of EPF Organisation

3740. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Sub-Regional Offices opened in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, the number of Senior Head Clerks and U.D.Cs. is far less in proportional percentage of the Regional Office with the result that the very intention to help the poor workers by way of quick settlement of payments and advances, has been defeated;

(b) whether Government propose to transfer senior Head Clerks and U.D.Cs. from the Regional Office to Sub-Regional Office for quick processing of claims, advance-applications and issue of annual statement of accounts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Efforts are made to provide adequate staff in the Sub-Regional Centres to cope with expanding activities and growing workload. The Central Provident Fund Commissioner has sent instructions to all Regional Provident Fund Commissioners that the staffing position in the Sub-Regional Offices should be reviewed and any imbalances corrected, to the extent possible.

(b) and (c). There are 53 posts of special Head Clerks in the various

Regional Offices in the scale of Rs. 470—750. The posts of Special Head Clerks and the Upper Division Clerks are to be allotted to the Sub-Regional Offices by the Regional Commissioners concerned, depending on their workload.

Conveyance allowance to EPF Staff

3741. SHRI R. P. YADAV:
SHRI P. J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to extend conveyance allowance facility to the Inspectors, Assistant Commissioners and Regional Commissioners in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation under consideration;

(b) whether this proposal is pending since some time ago although the implementation of this proposal would have immensely enhanced the efficiency of the staff and officers;

(c) whether the proposal has been examined and if so, what expenditure is likely to be incurred on this account;

(d) whether this proposal has been examined with reference to other organisations e.g. B.C.C.L. Mecon and other similar Government undertakings; and

(e) if so, what immediate steps are being taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) A recommendation for payment of conveyance allowance to the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation has been made in the interim report of the Sub-Committee constituted by the Central Board of Trustees.

(b) to (e). The above recommendation and some other recommendations of the Sub-Committee are being examined with reference to their financial implications and the practice in some

other undertakings. The financial cost of the recommendation concerning payment of conveyance allowance is estimated at Rs. 28 lakhs per annum.

Vessels stationed at Colgong (Bhagalpur)

3742. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vessels stationed at Colgong (Bhagalpur);

(b) the actual number in operation at present at Colgong;

(c) the reasons for keeping the remaining vessels idle and failure to repair the defective vessels; and

(d) the remedial action proposed to be taken for ensuring proper and prompt maintenance of all vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) 12 vessels (5 powered and 7 dumb).

(b) 10 vessels (3 powered and 7 dumb).

(c) The two powered vessels need dry-docking for carrying out the repairs to them. Hence repairs can be carried out only after requisite space in the Railway dry-dock at Mokameh becomes available for these vessels as there is no other dry-dock upstream of Farakka and it is not possible to take these vessels to Calcutta for repairs due to non-availability of water route.

(d) The Ministry of Railways (Rly. Board) were requested on 18-3-80 to dry-dock I.W.T. Directorate's vessels in Mokameh Dry-dock. The Railway Board have forwarded on 15-4-1980 the request of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport to the General Manager(M) North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur for necessary action. The vessels laid up for repairs are thus expected to be dry-docked shortly. In