

(b) A representation was received from the President, Janata Party, Town Organization, Arkonam for rebuilding the road under-bridge at Palanipet and he has been advised that as the road under-bridge is in a satisfactory condition, it does not require rebuilding.

(c) As per extant rules, proposals for widening of the existing road under-bridges to cater to the increased road traffic are considered subject to the State Government/Local Authority's bearing the entire cost thereof. No firm proposal has so far been received either from the State Government or the Arkonam Municipality for the widening of the road under-bridge at Arkonam.

Assistant Officers in Railway administration

3683. SHRI R. D. GATTANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of Class I Officers known as 'Assistant Officers' in the Railway Administration who were recruited by the Union Public Service Commission through the process of interview 10 to 22 years ago and who for no fault of theirs are still temporary;

(b) if so, their number;

(c) whether persons recruited years after them by the same Commission on the same or similar posts through written examination have been made senior to them and for what reasons; and

(d) when do the Government propose to confirm the services of the above mentioned temporary officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). 1089 Temporary Officers who were neither in Class I nor in Class II i.e., "Unclassified" were recruited from 1955 to 1968 and only 303 of them are now left to be confirmed in Class I/ Junior Scale.

(c) Officers recruited directly against permanent Class I cadre on the basis of the Competitive Examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission have been confirmed.

(d) The Government have recently increased substantially, the annual quota for confirmation in Class I/ Junior Scale of Temporary Officers. It is expected that the remaining officers would be confirmed in about 4 years time.

It is also proposed to absorb permanently a number of these officers in Indian Railway Stores Service and Indian Railway Personnel Service.

Sleeper Bogies on Manmad Zone

3684. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that the Minister proposes to increase the number of sleeper bogies on MANMAD zone from Ahmednagar or not, if so, please indicate the exact plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Distribution of Ammonium Sulphate by F.C.I.

3685. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principle of distribution of Ammonium Sulphate to the dealers of Orissa by the F.C.I. of India limited is in keeping with the policy of F.C.I. towards other States;

(b) whether there was any discrepancy in the total quantity of Ammonium sulphate supplied to Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh during last two years; and

(c) whether the dealerships of some have been cancelled in Orissa during emergency without any reason and rhyme?