

(c) Issue of Passes and P.T.Os., is a privilege extended to all the employees of the Indian Railways, and the employees in the R.D.S.O. are also Railway employees who are entitled to this privilege.

#### Shifting of Zonal Railway Headquarters

305. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry, keeping in view of over congestion of cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi etc., propose to shift its Zonal Railway Headquarters from present places to some Central places;

(b) if so, whether he has received a representation from the Central India Cotton Association Limited, Ujjain for shifting Western Railway Headquarter from Bombay to Ratlam; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The demand is not being accepted since it is administratively and operationally advantageous to keep the Headquarters of the Western Railway at Bombay.

#### Rail-cum-Road Bridge Across Bhagirathi

306. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-YAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a longstanding public demand for a Rail-cum-Road bridge across the Bhagirathi so as to connect two Wings of the Jiagunge-Azimunge municipality and also Jiagunge Railway station with Azimunge Junction Railway station of the Eastern Railway within the

district of Murshidabad in West Bengal; and

(b) whether Government have abandoned the idea which was formally considered by previous Government at the Centre or are still considering the feasibility and desirability of implementing this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). A request for construction of the bridge was received from the Government of West Bengal in 1972 but the Project was not taken up on account of its high cost and very limited prospects of Traffic.

#### Railway Refreshment Room on Eastern Railway

307. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SAN-YAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway Refreshment Room once so flourishing on the Ranaghat station of the Laigola-Sealdah section of the Eastern Railway has now been reduced to a mere tea-service stall;

(b) whether a good quality refrigerator has been lying out of order there for some time;

(c) whether an Oven of the Kitchen there has gone out of use; and

(d) whether Government propose to undertake restoration of service conditions so that meal service can be re-introduced rendering needed amenities to passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The Refreshment Room at Ranaghat Station was converted into a Snack Bar with effect from 1-1-70 for want of sufficient custom. Items like tea, coffee cold drinks, samosa, namkin, kachori, sweets, toast, butter, eggs and sheep food packets containing puries and dry