

potato curry which are in demand from the travelling public are served by this Snack Bar.

(b) No.

(c) All the ovens are being used.

(d) As there is no need for this service, there is no proposal to re-introduce a Refreshment Room at Ranaghat station. However, it is proposed to re-model the existing Snack Bar and introduce sale of some additional items of food.

#### **No Salary for Catering Boys at Ranaghat Station**

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

(a) whether Government are aware that at Ranaghat station on the Sealdah-Lalgola section of the Eastern Railway the catering boys get no salary and that they live on 15 paise per rupee commission basis which fetched them on an average round about not more than Rs. 50/- each, per month;

(b) whether Government are aware that their caterers' uniforms are not regularly washed and also replaced; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this state of things is going on for more than a decade and that nothing but expressing pious wishes has been forthcoming even after repeated drawing of Government attention to matter including a promise before the Public Accounts Committee of Shri Beri, the one time Chairman of the Railway Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Sales of comestibles in Departmental Catering establishments are arranged largely through commission bearers/vendors who are not Railway employees but who earn commission on the sales

effected by them. The rate of commission varies from item to item and station to station depending on the turnover and profitability. It is so fixed as to ensure reasonable emoluments to them provided they work full time as per duties allotted. At Ranaghat station commission for tea is 24 per cent and that for sweets, snacks, puries etc. 22 per cent. The commission bearers/vendors at this station on an average earn about Rs. 170 per month.

(b) The commission vendors and bearers are given free supply of 3 and 6 sets of uniforms respectively per year and these are regularly replaced. The Inspectors and Supervisors ensure that they are neatly dressed on duty. Since it was found in the case of bearers that the uniforms were being misused, these are now properly washed and kept with the Manager who supplies the uniforms to the bearers every morning, so that they are smartly dressed on duty.

(c) The commission bearers and vendors have already been made eligible for regular absorption in catering and other departments and they are being regularly absorbed in Class IV vacancies. Their service conditions are also currently under examination by the Government.

#### **Development Plan for Indian Railways**

309. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared developmental plan for Indian Railway for the next five years and submitted the same to the Planning Commission for expert advice and allocation of funds; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). The Railway development plan for the