

**Additional Solicitor-General of India  
to appear for Indian Tobacco  
Company**

8003. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:  
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE  
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleas-  
ed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government is permitting Shri Soli Shorabji, the Additional Solicitor General of India to appear for the Indian Tobacco Company in several writ petitions filed against the Union Government demanding lower assessment of Excise Duty under the Central Excise Law;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether it is permissible to allow Solicitor-General to accept briefs against the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Shri Soli Sorabjee, Additional Solicitor General of India was granted permission to appear for the Indian Tobacco Company in their Excise appeals in the Supreme Court. He has, however, decided not to avail of the permission granted to him.

(b) As Shri Soli Sorabjee had appeared in the case for the Company right from the beginning and had also given an undertaking to the Company to appear for them in the Supreme Court also, before his appointment as Additional Solicitor General of India, permission was granted to him.

(c) Yes, Sir, but only with the permission of Government.

**मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर को पब्लिक लिमिटेड  
कम्पनी में बदलना**

8004. श्री रामानन्द तिवारी : क्या  
बिधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने  
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मैसर्स ए० एच० व्हीलर के  
मालिकों ने बड़ते हुए सार्वजनिक रोच को देखते  
हुए इस कम्पनी के हाँचे में कोई मूल परिवर्तन  
किये वगैर, ही उसे प्राइवेट लिमिटेड से पब्लिक  
लिमिटेड कम्पनी में बदल दिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार का  
बिचार इस मामले की कोई जांच कराने  
का है और यदि हाँ, तो कब तक और उस पर  
सरकार की क्याप्रतिक्रिया है ?

बिधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री  
(श्री शान्ति भूषण): (क) सरकार के पास  
उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार कम्पनी अभी तक  
प्राइवेट लिमिटेड से पब्लिक लिमिटेड में नहीं  
बदली है ।

(ख) उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

**Absorption of Apprentices by  
Engineers India Limited**

8005. SHRI SHIV NARAIN  
SARSONIA: Will the Minister of  
PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND  
FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Diploma holders in  
Mechanical Engineering were taken as  
Apprentices by Engineers India Limited  
last year;

(b) if so, whether they were given  
undertaking that pending on the per-  
formance during their apprenticeship  
training, they would be absorbed in  
the Headquarters or in field offices in  
the scale of Rs. 425—800;

(c) whether it is a fact that during  
the apprenticeship period none of them  
was given any slightest hint or indi-  
cation that they will be turned out  
of the Company after the term of  
apprenticeship is over;

(d) whether the contract of appren-  
ticeship of many persons expired on  
6th February, 1978 but they were con-  
tinued beyond that date with the  
understanding that they will be  
absorbed in the Company;

(e) whether Graduate Engineers are being absorbed in the Company (Engineers India Ltd.).

(f) what are the reasons for terminating the apprenticeship of Diploma Holders Engineers on 3rd March, 1978 without giving prior notice; and

(g) what steps are being taken to absorb them in the Company itself (Engineers India Ltd.)?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No such undertaking was given to any of the apprentices. On the other hand it is made clear in the letter of engagement issued to the apprentices that "the contract of apprenticeship shall terminate on the expiry of the period of apprentice training of one year from the date of joining."

(d) Out of 20 apprentices of diploma holders engaged during 1977, 5 apprentices left on their own before the completion of the training. Out of the remaining 15, the contract of 8 apprentices expired on 6th February, 1978. However in some cases at the request of apprentices it was agreed by Engineers India Ltd. to give further training on ad-hoc basis outside the scope of Apprentices Act, 1961 upto 14th April, 1978 with a clear understanding that the ad-hoc training shall automatically terminate on 14th April, 1978.

(e) It is not obligatory on the part of Engineers India Ltd. to absorb all the apprentices. However on the basis of the requirement the Company has absorbed 64 Graduate Engineers so far.

(f) As it has been clearly indicated in the letter of engagement itself that the apprenticeship would stand terminated on the last date of training period, no separate notice is

considered necessary for termination of apprenticeship.

(g) As Engineers India Limited has no requirement for the services of these apprentices at the moment, the question of absorption of these people in the Company does not arise.

**Double Line between Subzimandi and Panipat**

**8006. SHRI SURAJ BHAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the density of traffic between Ambala and New Delhi has reached the saturation point;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during all the Army Operations, the civil traffic had to be reduced to the minimum on this railway line and even then it was not possible to cope with the Army traffic on this single line working;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the project of double line between Subzimandi and Panipat has already been taken in hand; and

(d) if so, the progress of the double line between Subzimandi and Panipat along with the position as to when the project of the doubling between Panipat and Ambala will be taken up in view of the pressing circumstances viz density of traffic and strategic position of this line?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN):** (a) Line capacity utilisation on Delhi-Panipat section is 85 to 95 per cent and between Panipat and Ambala about 80 per cent.

(b) During the last Military movement in December 1971 and January 1972, a few passenger trains were cancelled to cope with the requirements of military traffic, which was clearer without any hinderance.