

(b) Students and social organisations have been associated in checking ticketless travel and supplying drinking water at stations etc. Adequate machinery already exists to check the evil of corrupt practices in booking and reservation of tickets and the same has been further activated to contain the menace. Suggestions to improve the system are always welcome and are given due consideration for adoption, wherever feasible.

Students registered with Indian Institute of Company Secretaries

2238. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) how many students are registered with the Indian Institute of Company Secretaries of India under the old syllabus prior to the 1978 June examination;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that all of them will be affected by the unilateral decision of this institute to shift to a new syllabus; and

(c) whether it is proposed to advise the institute to continue this old system for the benefit of the students who are on already its rolls?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) From 1st April, 1978 onwards registration of students is affected only under the new syllabus. Of the students registered earlier the registration of 10,527 students is current and they are eligible to appear for the examinations under the old syllabus.

(b) The decision of the Institute has not been arbitrary or unilateral as sufficient notice has been given to all registered students from April 1978 onwards about the change of syllabus to be effective from July 1978. Students registered with this

Institute are eligible to appear in the examinations only after completion of the postal tuition. According to the information furnished by the Institute the number of students who have completed postal tuition upto 25th July, 1978 and who might be affected if they fail to pass the examinations under the old syllabus will be about 2200 for the Intermediate Examination and 700 for the Final Examination.

(c) In view of the representations received from some students registered under the old syllabus, the Institute has already extended the period for completing the examination upto December 1978 and June 1979 for Intermediate and Final examinations respectively.

Conversion Programme of M.G. into B.G.

2239 SHRI P. THIAGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the programme for conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge; and

(b) whether Government are aware of this urgency of the problem for achieving quick wagon turn round?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). The total length of metre gauge and narrow gauge lines in the country is 25512 Kms. and 4280 Kms. respectively and conversion of all these lines to broad gauge would require investment of more than Rs. 4000 crores. Conversion of all these lines would, therefore, have to remain a long-term objective.

Under the present policy a gauge conversion project is taken up:

(i) when a section becomes saturated and is incapable of handling additional traffic.