

(d) the approximate quantity and the sale value of such of the surplus engineering materials awaiting sales in Southern Railway; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken to dispose of the same to avoid deterioration of materials and loss of revenue due to belated auctions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Stores which are either un-serviceable or are surplus to the Railways own requirements are disposed off promptly through auction sale conducted at regular intervals after complying with the procedures for survey and sales.

(c) The total number of auctions held on Indian Railways during 1980-81 is 392.

(d) On Southern Railway about 1139 M/Ts of engineering materials valued at approximately Rs. 0.25 crores are available for sale.

(e) Due to regular auctions of scrap materials on the Railways the accumulation of scrap is not allowed to be large. This system is working satisfactorily. A constant watch is kept on disposal of the scrap.

Payment of O.T. Allowance to Traffic Staff in Madurai Division

9393. SHRI A. G. SUBBURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of over-time allowance paid to the Traffic staff in Madurai Division during 1980-81;

(b) the reasons for the payment of huge amount of over-time allowance;

(c) whether it is a fact that heavy payment of overtime allowance is involved in the uneconomic branch lines in Madurai Division viz., Madurai-Bodinayakanur section and Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli section;

(d) if so, how far it is justified;

(e) what action is proposed to be taken to curb this expenditure; and

(f) whether it is not unsafe to regularly engage the staff on over-time basis since they are engaged in train passing duties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Rs. 16,76,611.00.

(b) Payment of overtime had to be made due to leave and sick contingencies being in excess of standard provision.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Overtime becomes payable to the staff whenever goods trains are run occasionally outside the rostered duty hours on the Madurai-Bodinayakanur and Tiruchendur-Tirunelveli Section and it is proposed to regulate these goods services to curb the over-time expenditure.

(f) Safety is not affected since the staff are not engaged on overtime regularly but only occasionally. The Railway Administration is being advised to ensure that overtime work is avoided as far as possible.

Confirmation of Probationers on Railways

9394. SHRI SURAJ BHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6131 on the 2nd April, 1981 regarding confirmation of probationers on Railways and state:

(a) whether the rules for Class I equally apply to Class II employees too, appointed on probation on Railways;

(b) whether Class III employees appointed on probation have to be confirmed on completion of their probation period unless the period is extended through a specific notification;