

Ahmedabad to Siddhpur on Ahmedabad-Delhi metre-gauge line on Western Railway;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase additional men at each crossing in the next four years; and

(c) the normal time for which the gates at such crossings near a station or a village are closed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Seventy Three only.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normally not exceeding ten minutes at a time. A few level crossings on unimportant roads near stations are closed to road traffic at night, as there is practically no traffic on the road. In rare cases when such Level Crossing is required to be opened during the night, the road user has to approach the Station Master for opening the level crossing.

Plants for Groundnut Flour

2948. Shri Ram Harkh Yadav: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two pilot plants for the manufacture of edible groundnut flour are expected to go into production at Bombay and Coimbatore this year; and

(b) if so, how it is likely to affect the manufacture of vanaspati products?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes; arrangements are in progress.

(b) Not directly concerned with vanaspati. However the oil recovered during the production of edible groundnut flour will be superior in quality to the normal groundnut oil which is one of the raw materials used in vanaspati manufacture.

Appointment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Eastern Railway

**2949. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the short-fall in reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Eastern Railway in class III service of various categories has been filled up in 1961-62;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any drive was made to fill up this short-fall; and

(d) if so, the nature of drive?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). In most of the recruitment categories there is no shortfall but only excess recruitment of Scheduled Castes/Tribes in some cases. There is however a shortfall in promotion vacancies where the decision to reserve posts was taken only recently. The reservation quota here can be completely filled only when the recruits from these communities gain enough experience to make them suitable for promotion.

(c) Yes.

(d) Special selections were arranged for filling up reserved vacancies. The Selection Boards were instructed to apply relaxed standards in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The candidates of these communities are also given additional training and coaching in order to bring them upto the standard of others.

The posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes are also given wide publicity in order to attract all qualified candidates.