

Tata-Amritsar Express

235. SHRI SHEO SAMPAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Amritsar Express does not stop at Mahuariya in District Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh and the people of Mahauria have to face great inconvenience due to non-availability of this facility;

(b) whether this train runs every alternate day and not daily;

(c) whether there is any proposal to run this train daily and make arrangements for its stopping at Mahuariya to give relief to the people; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE):

(a) to (d). 161/162 Tata-Amritsar Express is not scheduled to stop at Mahuariya station. Increasing the stoppages of this Express train will not be in keeping with the need to continue this as a fast express train for through passengers. 161/162 Tata-Amritsar Expresses are at present running four times a week. Increase in the frequency of these trains to daily service is not feasible at present due to constraints of resources and lack of line capacity on some of the sections enroute. The matter would, however, be reviewed when further facilities become available.

O. & N.G.C. Deal with Hungary for Oil Exploration

236. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and natural Gas Commission has selected Hungary to undertake Oil exploration in Ramshahar, Himachal Pradesh on a contract drilling basis; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Oil and natural Gas Commission has entered into a service contract with CHEMOKOMPLEX of Hungary in March, 1977 for drilling Ramshahar well.

(b) Main terms and conditions are:

(i) The Contractor will depute an agreed number of technicians for drilling the well.

(ii) The Contractor will be paid as remuneration for each day of operation, Rs. 18000 for a minimum period of 100 days.

(iii) The ONGC will make available on site one drilling rig with all necessary equipment and materials.

(iv) Contractor will hand over all the data on the well to ONGC.

Steps to reduce over-crowding in Trains

237. DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to provide necessary accommodation in second class compartments for reducing over-crowding and ensure at least one seat to each ticket holder;

(b) what are the reasons that booking offices are allowed to sell tickets of the second class in excess of the sitting accommodation in each train; and

(c) what improvement he proposes to introduce in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE):

(a) Periodical census of occupation of all non-suburban passenger carrying trains is taken on the Railways twice a year to assess the extent of occupation in each train and on the basis of results of the censuses and