

(b) Wheel sets are free supply items supplied to the wagon manufacturers by the Railways free of cost. Due to delay in timely supplies from the ports, Railways allotted 300 wheelsets by transfer from Bharatpur to Mokameh and also suggested movement by Road to ensure timely availability of wheelsets to Bharat Wagon and Engg. Co. Ltd. for continued production.

(c) Tenders were invited for transportation of the 300 wheelsets and the contract was awarded to the lowest tenders. The amount paid was Rs. 4,01,250.

(d) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

**Opening of Sub-Post Office at Garhwa
in Distt. Palamau, Bihar**

4312. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Palamau district in Bihar has declared a backward district where priority has to be given to the developmental works for which P and T services are very essential;

(b) whether Government are aware that in Garhwa which is a sub-divisional head-quarter under this district, people have been facing great difficulties for want of a sub-post office;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to open a sub-post office in Garhwa;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Garhwa has already been provided with a sub Post Office with PCO facility.

(c) to (e). Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Pilferage of Petroleum products in
Transportation**

4313. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale pilferage of Petroleum and its by-products on way to their destination while transporting, both by rail and road; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to stop this pilferage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). While pilferage on a large scale has not been experienced during transportation of petroleum products by road and rail, the various measures have been taken to check pilferage, including :

(1) Introduction of pilferproof seals for sealing of tank trucks.

(2) Installation of weigh bridges, flow meters and calibration towers for carrying out surprise checks of tank trucks calibrations.

(3) Permitting a dealer's representative to travel in tank trucks carrying petroleum products.

(4) Escorting of tank wagon special trains by the Railway Protection Force in vulnerable sections.

(5) Keeping of close watch by RPF in oil sidings and in major yards where POL specials are handled.

(6) Deployment of plain clothed RPF personnel to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals indulging in committing pilferage of petroleum products.

(7) Taking of punitive action including black-listing of contractors indulging in such malpractices.