

(b) to (d). There is no proposal to transfer the mines in Bihar referred to from Eastern Coalfields Limited to Bharat Coking Coal Limited; these mines produce non coking coal. Victoria West and Begunia are coking coal mines which are located in West Bengal, there is no proposal to transfer them from Bharat Coking Coal Limited to Eastern Coalfields Limited.

[*Translation*]

Services of Railway Porters

7852. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide uniforms to licensed railway porters;

(b) whether there is any proposal to classify their status as was done earlier or declare them Class IV employees;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The licensed porters are supplied two sets of uniforms every year, the cost of which is to be met from the licence fee collected from them. If requested by them they are permitted to arrange uniforms on their own as per prescribed pattern and quality.

(b) to (d). The licensed porters were never given nor there is any proposal to give them the status of Class IV railway employees because they are licencees and earn their livelihood by carrying passengers' luggage on charging porters directly from the passengers.

Conversion of Purva Khera Halt into a Flag Station

7853. DR. S.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to convert Purva Khera Halt on Chandoli-Bareilly branch line of Northern Railway into a flag station;

(b) if so, whether it has since been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). The proposal for conversion of Purva Khera halt into a flag station has been examined but not found financially justified.

[*English*]

Payment of Claims for Work at Kiul Station

7854. SHRI L.V. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether handling contract for parcel good as Kiul Junction was awarded to Licensed Porters' Shramik Sahyog Samiti Ltd. run since 1967;

(b) whether the claims/dues for handling such contract from November, 1985 to January, 1987 was submitted by the Samiti to Divisional Office, Dinapur for payment; and

(c) if so, the reasons for non-payment of above claims so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.