

(b) The identity slip enables holder to encash certificates at any post office without prior verification from the office of issue. It was considered that, in order to safeguard the interests of the investor himself against fraudulent encashments on the basis of forged identity slips by others, he should sign the identity slip before the postmaster and that the slip should be issued under security arrangement.

(c) and (d). Government have no reason to believe that the order has affected the sale of National Plan Savings Certificates. Nevertheless, the question of revising the procedure with a view to eliminating any inconvenience to investors is being considered.

#### Freight Rates

2049. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
Shri Bhogji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how the shipping freight is arranged for the purpose of imports of cargoes to India; and

(b) whether the freight rate is settled for particular consignment and particular period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Shipping freight for most of the Government controlled import cargo is arranged either by the India Store Department, London or by the India Supply Mission, New York or by Indian Missions in other places. As regards commercial cargoes, the shippers/importers themselves fix shipping space, either directly or through the suppliers depending upon whether the contract of supply is F.O.B. or C.I.F.

(b) Freight rates are determined by Shipping Conferences in respect of Liner Companies and where ships of such companies are used for transport of cargoes, whether such cargoes are

Government owned/controlled or are commercial cargoes, the Conference rates have to be paid. Occasionally, however, special quotations are secured from Shipping Conferences when cargoes are to be moved in bulk. Where cargoes have to be moved by chartered ships, the charter hire is fixed by negotiation.

#### Construction of Chakarata and Tuini Road

2050. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of 25 mile long road between Chakarata and Tuini, Uttar Pradesh has been suspended; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The construction of the Chakarata-Tuini road is primarily the responsibility of the Uttar Pradesh Government as it will form part of a State road. So far as the Government of India are aware, the project is under the active consideration of the State Government who have approached the Government of India for a loan to finance this work. Since the project is not included in the current plan of the State Government, a loan cannot ordinarily be sanctioned by the Government of India for such works. But no decision in this case has so far been taken.

#### Shortage of drinking water in Punjab

2051. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of Punjab where acute shortage of drinking water has been felt;

(b) the schemes drawn up in this connection; and

(c) the amount spent out of Central Grants in these areas under the Plans?