

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been accepted by the Ministry of Mines and Fuel?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) The idea to utilise unyielding oil survey wells for purposes of supply of drinking water is under consideration. No specific proposal in this connection has yet been worked out and referred to the Ministry of Mines & Fuel. In informal talks with Minister for Health the Minister of Mines & Fuel was sympathetic to this idea.

(b) Does not arise.

Free Railway Passes for P. & T. Staff

1174. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) which categories of the Officers of Posts and Telegraphs Department are issued free railway passes (Card Passes etc.);

(b) what are the checks to see that these officers do not misuse these passes for private purposes;

(c) whether any form like the one filled in by Members of Parliament on the completion of their journeys is also required to be filled in by these officers/staff at the destination station to check the malafide use of such card passes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) A list is placed on the Table of the House. [See appendix II, annexure No. 15].

(b) Misuse of passes renders an official liable for disciplinary action. They are kept in the custody of responsible officers in the larger offices and are subject to check by the Railway Staff.

(c) No.

(d) The form required to be filled in by Members of Parliament is for the purpose of raising necessary debit by the Railways against the LokRajya

Sabha Secretariat. Cost of journeys undertaken by officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department by using duty card passes is not to be paid to the Railways and consequently such forms are not required to be filled in by the personnel of the Posts and Telegraphs Departments.

Railway Line from Ongole to Hyderabad

1175. Shri M. N. Swamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh proposed the construction of a new Railway line from Ongole to Hyderabad during the Third Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government?

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

(b) The proposal is not included in the Railway's programme of construction of new lines for the Third Five Year Plan.

Deficiency in Foodgrains

1176. Dr. K. L. Rao: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the deficiency in foodgrains during the last three years in respect of (i) Rice and (ii) Wheat;

(b) what are the costs involved in obtaining these from outside in respect of following (i) price paid (ii) shipping costs (iii) miscellaneous expenditure;

(c) whether there are projects undertaken already, which if completed earlier, can make good the deficiencies in respect of (i) Rice and (ii) Wheat; and

(d) if so, whether Government intend to accelerate these projects on priority basis to stop further imports?