

(b) whether this privilege is withdrawn on promotion of an employee to another category and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this policy is proving a disincentive to employees for seeking promotion even when they are eligible ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) Yes. The non-gazetted staff of ex-State Railways who were enjoying the privilege of rent-free quarters or house rent *in lieu* thereof on those Railways prior to the date of federal financial integration, have been allowed to retain the privilege as a personal concession after that date, so long as they continue to work in categories which were entitled to the concession on their original ex-State Railway.

(b) The privilege of rent-free quarters is withdrawn if and when the staff are promoted to categories which were not entitled to it on the respective ex-State Railway.

(c) The policy of granting the privilege of rent-free quarters to only such of the staff, and, so long as they continue to be entitled to it, under the rules and orders on the subject, is applied uniformly to all the staff of the Railway including the staff of the ex-Company Railways and the ex-State Railways, and no exception can be made in favour of the staff of the former State Railways only.

**TRANSPORTATION OF ORE FROM KUDREMUKA**

5338. **SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of the scheme evolved for transporting ore from Kudremuka; and

(b) the probable time by which the scheme is likely to be completed and the amount sanctioned for the same ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) :** (a) and (b). The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited are having negotiations with an American firm for conducting

pilot plant tests with a view to assess the economic feasibility of exploiting the Kudremukh iron ore deposits. Detailed scheme for transportation from Kudremukh to Mangalore port will follow the finalisation of the economic feasibility report. It is not possible to indicate any probable time for completion of the scheme at this stage.

**ALLOTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI AREAS**

5339. **SHRI R. S. VIDYARTHI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 15,000 Railway employees working in Delhi and New Delhi areas are on the waiting list for allotment of railway accommodation and the Railways has not undertaken a single construction scheme to provide accommodation;

(b) if so, whether the Railways in Co-ordination with the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply propose to make these Railway employees entitled for allotment of accommodation from the General Pool maintained by the latter;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how Government propose to solve the shortage of accommodation experienced by their employees in Delhi and New Delhi areas ?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA):** (a) More than 15,000 Railways employees are in the list but it is not a fact that the Railways have not undertaken construction of additional quarters. Every year additional quarters have been constructed in Delhi area on a programme depending upon the availability of funds.

(b) No.

(c) The arrangement suggested at (b) is not workable from administrative considerations.

(d) The solution lies in the availability of funds with the Railway for building quarters for their staff as well as the housing activity in the private sector. The Government is taking active interest in both these aspects of the problem.