

**Permanent Rail Passes to Freedom Fighters**

1265. SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Freedom Fighters holding Railway Passes are also permitted to travel by Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As per the scheme finalised in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Freedom Fighters are not eligible to travel by Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains on Freedom Fighters pass, except for ex-Andaman political prisoners (about 50 numbers) who have been allowed this facility as a special privilege.

(b) The scheme has been finalised by the Ministry of Home Affairs who bear the cost of passes issued to Freedom Fighters. The scheme does not envisage travel by Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains by the Freedom Fighters holding Railway Passes except for ex-Andaman Political prisoners in view of financial implications as well as limited accommodation available on these trains.

**Survey for Mainaguri-Jogighopa Rail Line**

1266. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work has been completed for construction of Mainaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar-Jogighopa railway line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The survey is in progress.

(b) Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

**Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technologies**

1267. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Principals in the Institutes of Hotel Management and Catering Technologies set up by the Government are transferable;

(b) if so, whether a number of Principals of these institutes have not been transferred for the last so many years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the date by which the amended bye-laws will be adopted by all the Institutes; and

(e) the steps contemplated by the Government in the event when all Institutes do not adopt these stipulated bye-laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) In the existing Bye-Laws, there is no provision for transfer of Principals from one autonomous Institute to other.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Amendment of Bye-Laws to enable transfer of Principals has been suggested. Efforts are being made to generate a consensus to ensure amendments of Bye-Laws by all the Institutions.

**Airport in Sikkim**

1268. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim has been repeatedly requesting the Government for setting up of an airport in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is a request from the Government of Sikkim for development of an airport in Sikkim. This matter would be further considered as and when the project report of