

[10 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Purchase of Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car

†1098. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to buy Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car for examination of rail tracks, so that rail accidents can be checked;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on the above work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Procurement of 2 nos. of high speed Self-Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing (SPURT) Car have been sanctioned one each in Works programme of 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) The likely cost to be incurred on procurement of these two SPURT Cars is approx. Rs. 34.5 crore.

Reservation Terminals to Railway Agents

1099. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have been resisting for several years all attempts to give terminals to Private operators, apprehending that they would block tickets;

(b) whether there is a proposal to give passenger Reservation Terminals to Railway agents;

(c) whether Government are aware that if this scheme is implemented, passengers, particularly long distance passengers, would face serious problems; and

(d) if so, why do Government opt for such a measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) It is a fact that the requests for allotment of

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.