

purchase raw rubber direct from small growers in Kerala through State Government Civil Supplies Department and Service Co-operatives. The first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs has already been sanctioned. The rate of interest is 5 per cent per annum with a rebate of $\frac{1}{4}$ % per annum for prompt repayments/interest payment.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FROM NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION BOOKING OFFICE

455 SHRI N R MUNISWAMY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the clandestine activities at the New Delhi Railway Station Booking Office in the matter of reservation of seats;

(b) whether surprise visits by senior officials are paid at the booking counters to check such activities; and

(c) if so, the results thereof and what further steps have been taken by Government to put an end to this racket?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) (a) By clandestine activities presumably the reference is to the activities of outsiders indulging in malpractices in the matter of booking and reservation. Instances of such activities on the part of outsiders have come to notice.

(b) To ensure proper system of booking and reservation, surprise checks are made from time to time.

(c) Checks and discreet enquiries have disclosed the existence of outside elements who indulge in securing accommodation for intending passengers on collection of extra amount and in the process commit malpractices in some cases in collusion with the Railway staff. Measures have been provided to ensure proper system of booking and reservation. Further, how best the problem posed by these elements, can be tackled is engaging the attention of the Government.

OVER-BRIDGE ON TINSUKIA MAKUM ROUTE

456. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1581 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th March, 1970 and state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam have since sponsored the scheme for the provision of an over-bridge on the Tinsukia-Makum route for being included in the works programme of the Railways for 1971-72, and

(b) whether it will be completed during the year 1971-72 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):

(a) No

(b) Does not arise.

PATRATU THERMAL POWER PROJECT IN HAZARIBAGH

457 SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER/सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase of the Patratu Thermal Power Project in Hazaribagh has been completed; and

(b) if so, to what extent the power generated at the project will help Bihar State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL)

(a) Four 50 MW each and one 100 MW generating units out of 400 MW comprising the first phase of Patratu Thermal Power Station have been commissioned. The sixth generating unit of 100 MW is under erection and is likely to be commissioned during the current year

(b) The Project would add 400 MW of installed capacity to the Grid and will feed about 2000 million KWh annually into the Bihar Grid which would be of considerable help in meeting demands of industry, agriculture and other loads in the State.