

(b) if so, where is the factory to be set up and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) and (b) The proposal to manufacture contraceptives by the Government is under consideration.

REDUCTION OF FREE UNLOADING HOURS

*214. SHRI MAGANBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the reduction of free unloading hours from five to three has been effected from July, 1962 all over India or only on particular railway stations on the Western Railway in spite of protest from traders of Baroda and Ahmedabad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): As an experimental measure, free time has been reduced at certain stations on the Western Railway to improve wagon turn-round. Initially protests were received from trade interests of Baroda and Ahmedabad but the position was explained to them by the officials of the Western Railway and they agreed to co-operate and to work to the changed free time. There has been no difficulty in working to the revised times.

SENIORITY OF STAFF IN RAILWAY BOARD

*215. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 65 in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th June, 1962 and state:

(a) whether the Staff Office Order No. 14 of 1960 regarding seniority of staff in Railway Board has since been implemented;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for not implementing it so far; and

(c) the probable date by which the same will be given effect to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Not yet.

(b) and (c) While finalising the list of initial constitution vacancies, the filling of which is required to be done in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission, the Commission, in their letter received a few months ago, raised certain points which are under consideration of the Ministry of Railways. The final proposals of the Ministry, after taking due note of the cases of all categories of staff, are expected to be sent to the Commission shortly.

PURCHASE AND IMPORT OF RAILWAY SLEEPERS

*216. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway sleepers purchased from the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the first half of the year 1962;

(b) the quantity of sleepers imported from abroad during the same period; and

(c) what is the short-fall in the plan for replacement of sleepers on the Railways during the year 1961-62?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Approximately 3:86 lakhs Nos.

(b) About 61,395 Nos. of Specials and 19,415 Nos. N. G. track sleepers.

(c) Including shortfall in the previous years, total shortfall at the end of 1961-62 was about 18 lakhs of sleepers.