

1961 and state what progress has been made by Government to have taxi-type meters on the scooter rickshaws?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Two firms viz.: Messrs Sujan Singh and Meter Traders, Bombay, have offered to supply fare meters for auto-rickshaws. They have been asked by the State Transport Authority, Delhi, (i) to get the sample meters tested by the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, and (ii) to produce evidence that they hold licences for importing 3,500 meters from Japan. The matter will be considered further by that Authority on receipt of the report of the aforementioned Institute on the meters offered by the two firms and also on production of the necessary documentary evidence by them.

Railway Line from Palia Kalan to Hasanpur Katauli on N.E. Rly.

1158. Shri B. Verma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct a new North Eastern Railway line from Palia Kalan to Hasanpur Katauli or to some other place in Tahsil Nighasan, District Kheri of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the survey of the place was conducted in connection with the same; and

(c) if so, whether this proposal will be executed within the Third Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Ladies Waiting Shed at Belghoria (E. Rly.)

1159. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on Eastern Railway, Belghoria has the

second highest suburban daily passenger traffic;

(b) why there is no waiting shed with ladies waiting room at Belghoria; and

(c) if so, when this amenity will be provided?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) A waiting shed and a Ladies Waiting Room already exist at Belghoria.

(c) Does not arise.

Destruction of Foodgrains

1160. Shri Vishram Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of food-grains is being destroyed by animals (rats, birds, monkeys etc.) every year;

(b) the quantity destroyed during the past five years; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check this destruction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b). No definite figures are available.

(c) Sustained efforts have been made by the States to control rats and jackals. Large scale control campaigns have and are being regularly organised. In some States, schemes for the control of monkeys on the basis of cash rewards to individual catchers were tried but these proved unsuccessful and were abandoned. In many areas, wild and stray cattle are also responsible for destruction of food crops etc. Government have sanctioned a scheme under which such cattle are caught by trained personnel and disposed of to breeders and Gosadans. Religious sentiment has often proved to be a hurdle in the way of destruction/disposal of monkeys, wild and stray cattle.

As regards birds, attempts are being made to prevent crop damage by adopting modern bird scaring devices.