

WEST BENGAL

1. Kalchini
2. Hamiltonganj
3. Banerwar
4. Jalpaiguri Road
5. Falakata

X-Ray Technicians

2215. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attention is paid by the Railway administration for complying with the instructions given by the Minister of State for Railways for pending the orders of upgrading and downgrading the posts of X-Ray Technicians on Firozpur and Bikaner Divisions; and

(b) if not, what action has been taken by the Railway administration against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No instructions were given by the Minister of State for Railways for pending the orders of upgrading and downgrading the posts of X-Ray Technicians of Firozpur and Bikaner Divisions.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

Issue of Identity Cards for Voters

2216. SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider issuance of identity cards for all eligible voters throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE: (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). One of the proposals for electoral reform made by

the Election Commission is that it is desirable to issue identity cards with photographs to electors with a view to preventing impersonation of voters at the time of polling. The proposal is under examination along with other proposals for electoral reform.

Waste Railway Land to Employees for Cultivation

2217. SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that the Railway land lying waste are given to the staff for cultivation to boost up food production;

(b) is it also a fact that a nominal rent was originally proposed to boost up this scheme;

(c) what was the amount per acre fixed earlier in 1960's and at present with reason for the enormous increase or decrease in the rent and what is the rent charged by the State Government per acre of land;

(d) is it a fact that all the Railway staff of all grades are not given this facility and discrimination is made on the basis of grades and position the staff hold;

(e) the steps being taken to make this a popular scheme by lowering the rent at pre-1960 level on the North and North-Eastern Railway in particular and also removing the discrimination and restrictions imposed by local administrations; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) to (e). Surplus railway land, which is not immediately required for railway purposes, is licensed both to the railway employees and outsiders for cultivation purposes. Prior to June, 1967, railway land was given free of charge to the adjoining land owners in between the stations and to the railway employees within the station