

Sakrighat Maniharighat and whether this assurance was reiterated in appeal to the Minister for Railways and Railway Board and if so, with what result;

(c) whether Government is aware that one of the retired member of the Railway Board is working as a Managing Director of Messrs. Bird & Co., (Private) Ltd., and whether any permission for such employment was given by the Government to Messrs. Bird & Co., (Private) Ltd., in terms of Clause 16 of the Handling Contracts for Sakrighat and Maniharighat; and

(d) if the reply to (c) above is in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) A statement giving the information desired is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix IV, annexure No 50].

(b) On an approximate assessment of the total value of the contract including payment for extra lead over the normal, the tender of Messrs. Bird & Co., (Private) Ltd., was found to be the lowest, and not that of the previous contractor. After the tenders were opened, the latter offered to adjust his rates for extra lead if the tender was accepted but there was no unqualified undertaking not to claim payments for extra leads. The Railways did not consider that there was any justification for negotiating with the various tenders.

(c) and (d). Yes; but the question of grant of permission to Messrs Bird & Co., (Private) Ltd., did not arise as the retired Member had taken up the employment with them earlier, and his employment was known to the Railways when the contract was awarded.

Tuberculosis

1540. Shri Nek Ram Negi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wild fruit "RUDANTI" has been used in Balabhai Nanavati Hospital, Bombay and

proved very successful for treatment of T.B. cases;

(b) if so, what are its details; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce this very medicine in other T.B. Hospitals?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The information asked for is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

G.M.F. Schemes for Andhra

1541. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted for Grow More Food Campaign to Andhra Pradesh during 1957-58 and whether it was fully spent;

(b) how far it has been helpful in increasing the food production in the State; and

(c) what fresh acreage of land has been brought under cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A sum of Rs 519.70 lakhs was authorised to the State Government. According to the reports received so far, a sum of Rs. 450.05 lakhs has been spent.

(b) An additional production of 2.17 lakh tons is reported to have been achieved.

(c) An additional area of 32,972 acres is reported to have been brought under cultivation.

Purli-Vikarabad section of the Central Railway

1542. Shri Naldurgker: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly income on Purli-Vikarabad section of the Central Railway from January, 1958 to the 31st July, 1958;

(b) the number of ticketless travellers during the same period, month-wise;