

(c) whether a high-level enquiry will be made into this wasteful import policy?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir, This idle capacity is due to non-availability of adequate foreign exchange for import of virgin non-ferrous metals required to feed the industry.

(b) Import in general of non-ferrous semis like brass and copper tubes, rods, sections, strips, sheets etc has been banned under the Import Trade Control Policy for a long time. However, import of brass and copper tubes, sheets etc of such sizes and specifications as were not indigenously available and were essential for the actual users, has been allowed in the case of machinery used in sugar industry, refrigeration and printing industries etc Import of such semis was also allowed under Trade Plans as the Rupee-Payment countries were not prepared to supply virgin non-ferrous metals Due to shortage of foreign exchange for the import of virgin metals, the import of such semis became imperative to maintain the existing level of production and to avoid closure of the units

Further, steps have been taken to formulate the current Import Policy whereby import is permitted only to Actual Users for such sizes/specifications of brass and copper tubes, sheets etc. which indigenous manufacturers are not able to produce All such items for which indigenous capacity exists are totally banned in the current Import Policy.

(c) In view of the position explained at (b) above, an enquiry into the matter is not considered necessary.

Train from Howrah to Cuttack connecting Puri—Talchar Passenger Train

6445. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware

that at present there is no train from Howrah to Cuttack connecting Puri-Talchar passenger which leaves Cuttack in the evening, causing great hardship to the passengers; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to run such a train and when it is likely to be started?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Suitable connecting trains are already available in Nos 317Up Howrah-Puri Passenger and 99 Up Howrah-Madras weekly Air-conditioned Express which are scheduled to arrive Cuttack at 15 08 and 15 22 hours respectively and connecting with No 436 Dn. Puri-Talchar Passenger scheduled to leave there at 18 45 hours

(b) Does not arise.

Ticketless Travelling

6446. Shri K. P. Singh Deo: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of ticketless travelling among the Railway staff have been detected by the Railway authorities;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the past six months; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Separate statistics of Railway staff travelling without tickets are not maintained. Only figures of total number of persons travelling without tickets are maintained by the Railways. Some railway staff do get detected travelling without ticket.

(c) when Railway staff are detected travelling without tickets, in addition to the realisation of railway dues, disciplinary action is also taken against them.