

(b) whether Government have received any reports from the Indian High Commission in Canada;

(c) if so, what is the total number of such Indians who have sought immigration to Canada;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to put stop to such influx;

(e) what are the names of travel agencies involved in sending these persons to Canada; and

(f) whether any such travel agents have been apprehended so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The number of Indians who have sought refugee status in Canada between January and July 1981 is reported to be 1393.

(d) With a view to preventing hardship and unnecessary suffering to these individuals Government of India have given publicity to the fact that persons falsely claiming to be refugees will not be admitted into Canada. Steps are also being taken against Travel Agents etc., who have been misleading some of these innocent persons.

(e) and (f) Since the matter is presently under investigation, it would not be appropriate at this stage to state the names of the Travel Agencies involved.

Double Tracking on Farrakka Bridge on Eastern Railway

494. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for double tracking on Farrakka Bridge on Eastern Railway for smooth run-

ning of railway traffic in this part of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No. With the opening of the alternative BG route via Katihar, Barsoi, Siliguri, it may not be necessary to double Farrakka Barrage Bridge in the near future.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposal for Laying of Parallel Broad Gauge Railway Line in N.F. Railway Zone

495. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:
SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for laying a broad gauge railway line parallel to metre gauge railway line from Katihar to New Jalpaiguri on N.F. Railway;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Straight conversion of Katihar-Barsoi-Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri MG line (209 kms.) into BG as a part of doubling of Kumedpur-Barsoi-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar section has already been approved and included in the Budget for 1981-82, at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.70 crores, with a provision of Rs. 50.00 lakhs during the year.