

for the development of the area, whereas Shri Ajoy Biswas, M.P. in his letter dated 27-5-81 had requested for early completion of survey for new line in Tripura. No mention was made by them for extension of railway line beyond Agartala upto Sab-room. Both of them were replied that a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey (updating) has already been sponsored by N.E. Council, at their cost and the N.F. Railway has been advised to complete the survey as early as possible. Further consideration to this project will be given after the results of the survey become known, subject to availability of funds and its clearance by the Planning Commission.

Expansion of Kumedpur-Borosoi-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar Railway Line

346. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for doubling of the railway line Kumed-pur-Borsoi New-Jalpaiguri-Raninagar, on N.F. Railway; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Conversion of Katihar-Barsoi-Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri M.G. Section into B.G. (209.01 Kms.) as a part of doubling of Kumedpur-Barsoi-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar section has already been approved and included in the Railway Budget for 1981-82 at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.70 crores, with an initial provision of Rs. 50 lakhs during the year. Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for the proposed conversion sanctioned in July, 1981 is *in progress*. The construction work will be taken in hand after the survey is

completed and the project estimate sanctioned.

Introduction of Super Fast Train... between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta

347. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the people of North Bengal, Assam and Eastern Region for running a super fast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was decided by the Railways to introduce such a super fast train;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay to introduce the train; and

(d) by when such a train is likely to be introduced in the above line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Introduction of Super Fast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta is not feasible on account of shortage of broad gauge coaching stock, saturated line capacity on sections enroute and inadequate terminal facilities both at New Bongaigaon and Sealdah/Howrah.

Palace-on-Wheels

348. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a London firm, allegedly blacklisted by the ITDC, has been recommended for appointment as publicity agents for the proposed "Palace on Wheels" under the programme of "tourism attraction" by the Indian Railways;