

Construction of National Highways

260. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total amount sanctioned for the construction and repair of National Highways in various States during the last three years; year-wise, State-wise and Highway-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): A statement is attached [See Appendix CXIV Annexure No. 24].

Scheme for double tracks between Sheoraphull and Tarakeshwar

261. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: SHRI SANGDOPAL LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct double tracks between Sheoraphull and Tarakeshwar and also to extend lines upto Bishnupur via Arambagh to meet the demand of the local people; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Diesel coach service on Shantipur-Nabadwipghat railway line

262. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce diesel coach on Shantipur-Nabadwipghat narrow gauge line; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

At present there is no proposal to introduce Diesel Coaches on Shantipur-Nabadwipghat narrow gauge section.

(b) Does not arise.

Extension of Andal-Suri-Sainthia line

263. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to extend Andal-Suri-Sainthia line upto Karimpur via-Kandi-Berhampur-Jalangi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): There is no proposal under consideration for the present for undertaking a survey for a new B.G. line linking Sainthia with Karimpur.

Double track between Krishnanagar and Lalgola

264. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: SHRI SANGDOPAL LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the laying of a double track between Krishnanagar and Lalgola, and for the electrification of the section; and

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Recasting the rail route of Nilachal Express

265. SHRI SANGDOPAL LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a joint petition from Members of Parliament urging upon him to recast the route

of Nilachal Express in the interest of the people of Purulia, Bankura and Midnapur districts in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) 175/176 Triweekly Puri-New Delhi Neelachal Express has been routed via Bokaro Steel City and Tatanagar in order to connect the industrial centres of Bihar with New Delhi. The passengers to and from Bokaro Steel City and the Steel Authorities had also been demanding a fast service to go to Delhi for a long time. Therefore, it is not desirable to divert Neelachal Express via Bankura or Purulia depriving these passengers.

Handling of Freight by railways

266. SHRI SANGDOPAL LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Parliamentary Committee to go into the working of the railways specially its planning and operation and other related aspects; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways are neither able to cope with passengers' traffic nor with the handling of freight as a result the country's economy is receiving serious jolt every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No.

Rohtak-Bhiwani broad gauge railway line

267. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 833 given in the Rajya

Sabha on the 2nd March, 1979 and state:

(a) what is the latest progress made in the construction of Rohtak-Bhiwani broad gauge railway line; and

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed and what was the target date set for its completion in the original sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) The line has been opened to traffic on 3-6-1980.

Under-utilization of Calcutta Port

268. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Port is working below its capacity;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to utilise the full capacity of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The primary reason has been limitation of draught which makes Calcutta Port in-accessible for medium and large sized vessels. Besides, the labour problems in the past contributed to under-utilization of the capacity.

(c) As regards draught limitation, technical studies are being carried out to determine the steps that could be taken for improving the situation. Incentive schemes have been adopted to ensure better productivity from the labour. Besides, efforts have been made to divert imports of cargo on Government account to Calcutta.