

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.