

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

(c) what are the measures taken by Government to streamline the functioning of the D. T. C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) and (b) The bus fares in the Capital are fixed/revised by the Delhi Transport Corporation with the approval of the Government. No proposal for revision of bus fare has so far been received by the Government from the D.T.C. A proposal for revision of bus fares is, however, under the consideration of the Corporation to meet the increased cost of operation.

(c) In order to streamline the functioning of the DTC, measures taken include:

(i) Provision of Rs. 19.38 crores has been made in the annual outlay for various plan schemes including purchase of 630 new buses, development of related infrastructure such as construction of Second Central Workshop, depots and Bus Queue shelters.

(ii) To achieve higher operational efficiency, a jumping crew system on selected routes has been introduced whereby when one set of crew takes rest, another set operates the bus bringing in better utilisation of resources and serving more number of passengers.

(iii) On the organizational side, the whole time Chairman-cum-General Manager has been appointed since 12th May, 1980. The post was vacant since early October, 1979 during which period the stop-gap arrangement had been made.

Request by European Shippers' Council regarding freight hike

704. **SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Shippers' Council at the

end of its meeting in Venice in May, 1980 requested the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladesh and Srilanka Governments to defer the enforcement of 20 per cent freight hike proposal;

(b) whether Government have accepted the request made by them at the Conference; and

(c) if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) to (c) A Press report has come to the notice of the Government, according to which the European Shippers' Council at its meeting in Venice has requested the India-Pakistan-Bangladesh-UK/Continent Conference to defer the enforcement of the 20 per cent freight hike. Conferences are voluntary associations of shipping companies and are multi-national in character. The Government of India does not control the fixation of freight rates by the conferences.

Conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar (NER) metre-gauge lines

705. **SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work for the conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines stated by the Railway Minister in his last Railway budget speech between Darbhanga and Jayanagar (NER, Bihar) has started;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The survey in question has been included in the regular Budget for 1980-81 and will be taken up shortly after the estimate is sanctioned.