

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga line has been included in the budget and the survey for it has been completed. Construction work on the project has not been started so far on account of constraint of resources.

Interlocking directorship system in private companies

82. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the interlocking directorship system is still operating in private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken about it so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Section 316 and Section 275 read with Section 278 of the Companies Act, 1956 regulate the appointment of the same person as Managing Director and Director respectively in more than one private company which is a subsidiary of a public company. By virtue of Section 275 no person can hold office at the same time as director in more than twenty Companies. This prohibition, however, does not apply to a private company which is not a subsidiary or a holding company of a public Company.

(c) Government has appointed a High Powered Expert Committee to suggest amendments to the Companies Act, 1956. It is expected that the said Committee will go into the question of inter-locking directorship of Companies and make suitable recommendations.

Supply of trolleys to railway porters

83. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to supply trolleys to the railway porters in order to discourage the practice of carrying the luggage on their heads; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Trolleys and hand barrows have been provided by the Railway administration at important stations. Licensed porters are permitted to use these trolleys free of charge for carrying heavy/bulky luggage of passengers as and when they need. Since most of the platforms at the stations are not connected with subways requiring heavy investment, it may not be feasible to dispense with the practice of carriage of luggage on head by the Licensed Porters.

Over-crowding in trains

84. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA;
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that over-crowding has become a normal feature in a number of trains; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) A