

other linking routes are concerned, proposals may perhaps be considered in due course.

Expenditure on Tundla-Delhi electrification work is estimated at Rs. 22.5 crores, other than tolling stock. The estimated costs for electrification of other routes have not yet been worked out.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING CONVERSION OF RUPSA-BANGRIPOSI NARROW GAUGE LINE INTO BROAD GAUGE LINE

759. SHRI C. P. MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum regarding conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line in South Eastern Railway into broad gauge line ; and

(b) is so, whether Government have taken any decision in regard to the memorandum ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Uneconomic Branch Lines Committee, 1969 a traffic survey has been carried out for the conversion of the Rupsa-Bangriposi-Talband N. G. line into B. G. and the report is at present under the examination of the Railway Board. A decision regarding this conversion will be taken after this examination is completed.

PROVISION OF SENIOR-SCALE STENOGRAPHERS FOR SENIOR SCALE OFFICERS OF NORTHERN RAILWAY

760. SHRI K. SRINIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether senior scale officers are provided with senior scale stenographers in the Northern Railway ;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing senior scale stenographers to the D. M. O. and D. E. N./I, Bikaner ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Sanction exists for provision of a Stenographer in scale Rs. 210-425 to D. M. O. Bikaner, but the incumbent of the post against this sanction was being utilised elsewhere in the exigencies of work. The Railway Administration has since issued instructions to the

Divisional Superintendent, Bikaner, to post the Stenographer in question (in scale Rs. 210-425) with the D. M. O.

On a review of the postings of Stenographers with various officers, Northern Railway Administration issued orders on 31. 3. 72 that a Stenographer in grade Rs. 210-425 should be posted to D. E. N. I. However, the Stenographer nominated for the purpose has not yet started working with D. E. N. I. The Northern Railway Administration has been specially instructed to ensure that a Stenographer (scale Rs. 210-425) is posted to D. E. N. I. Bikaner with the least possible delay.

TRANSFERS OF SCHEDULED CASTES EMPLOYEES OF RAILWAYS

761. SHRI K. SRINIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the orders issued by the Railway Board *vide* their letter No. E (SCT) 70CM/15/3 dated the 19th November, 1970 to the effect that transfers of scheduled castes employees shall be confined to their native districts are being implemented ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to get these orders implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NEED FOR PASSENGER TRAINS IN SOUTHERN ASSAM, MIZORAM AND TRIPURA

762. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing need of passenger trains in Southern Assam, Mizoram and Tripura ;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any proposal to improve the hill section line between Lumding and Badarpur ; and

(c) whether Government are also considering nationlisation of the Katakhal-Lalaghat line and introduction of two more passenger trains between Lumding and Badarpur ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes.