

(c) if so, what is the opinion of the Ministry of Law in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI MOHAMMED YUNUS SALEEM) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) The legal advice given by this Ministry on questions raised by Departments of Government form part of inter-departmental notings and it will not be in public interest to divulge the same.

RAILWAY-CUM-ROAD BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA

764. SHRI E. M. SANGMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to construct a railway-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra between Jogigopa and Pancharatna near Goalpara town in Assam; and

(b) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b) An economic survey by the Gauhati University of the transport needs of the lower Brahmaputra valley has been undertaken recently with a view to finding out the need for and the economic viability of the proposal for extension of the B. G. line to Gauhati along the South Bank of the river Brahmaputra with a bridge at Jogighopa. A final decision in the matter can be taken only after these investigations are completed and the report is examined by the Railway Board.

DELAY IN ALLOTMENT OF RESERVED SEATS TO ASSAM MAIL PASSENGERS AT BARAUNI JUNCTION

765. SHRI E. M. SANGMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the allotment of reserved seats for the Assam Mail passengers at Barauni junction is not done promptly resulting in immense hardship to the passengers ; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal under consideration for

extending the jurisdiction of the North-east Frontier Railway from Katihar to Barauni in order to minimise the present hardship of the Assam Mail passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :

(a) No. Adequate machinery exists at Barauni to ensure prompt allotment of reserved accommodation to passengers travelling by Assam Mail.

(b) Does not arise.

RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN NEW BONGAIGAON AND NANGALBIBRA, DARANGIRI ETC. IN ASSAM

766. SHRI E. M. SANGMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration to construct a railway line from Bongaigaon or any point nearby to Nangalbibra, Darangiri and Siju in the district of Garo Hills in Assam where mineral deposits like coal, limestone etc., besides other raw materials are available in abundance; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the scheme and the time by when the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) Due to paucity of funds, this line cannot be considered for construction in the near future.

EXTENSION OF BROAD GAUGE LINE FROM NEW BONGAIGAON TO GAUHATI AND TINSUKIA

767. SHRI E. M. SANGMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a scheme to extend the broad gauge line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati via Goalpara town and then to Tinsukia ; and

(b) if so, the time by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and

(b) An economic survey by the Gauhati University of the transport needs of the lower Brahmaputra Valley has been undertaken recently with a view to finding

out the need for and the economic viability of the proposal for extension of the B. G. line to Gauhati. A final decision in the matter can be taken only after these investigations are completed and the report is examined by the Railway Board. Further extension up to Tinsukia can be considered only if and when the extension of B. G. Line up to Gauhati is decided upon.

CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS

768. SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the large-scale and small-scale manufacturers of cigarettes in the country;

(b) the percentage of foreign holdings in each ;

(c) the names of the companies which have been given licences during the current year to manufacture cigarettes; and

(d) steps taken to support (i) indigenous and (ii) small-scale cigarette manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) Particulars relating to large-scale manufacturers of cigarettes are given in the statement attached. (See below.) Government are not aware of any small-scale manufacturers of cigarettes.

(c) A letter of intent has been granted to Messrs. Golden Tobacco Company, Bombay for setting up a new unit at Ahmedabad for manufacturing cigarettes.

(d) Setting up of additional capacity by wholly-owned Indian companies is being encouraged. They are being assisted in securing balancing equipment and machinery with a view to improving the quality of products ; maintenance requirements in respect of raw materials and spares which are not indigenously available are also being considered liberally subject to availability of foreign exchange.

STATEMENT

The names of large-scale manufacturers of cigarettes and the percentage of foreign holding in each are given below

Name of the Company	Percentage of foreign share-holding
1. Messrs. Imperial Tobacco Company, Calcutta.	94% (Approx.)
2. Messrs. Vazir Sultan Tobacco Manufacturing Company, Hyderabad.	67%
3. Messrs. Godfrey Philips, Bombay	92.65%
4. Messrs. Golden Tobacco Company, Bombay	Nil
5. Messrs. National Tobacco Company, Calcutta.	*
6. Messrs. D. Macropolo, Bombay.	†
7. Messrs. Masters Tobacco, Bombay	Nil
8. Messrs. Crown Tobacco, Bombay.	Nil
9. Messrs. Hyderabad Deccan Cigarette Factory, Hyderabad.	Nil
10. Messrs. International Tobacco Company, Ghaziabad.	Nil

*20% participation by non-residents only.

†38% participation by non-residents and foreigners resident in India.

PRODUCTION AND PRICE OF RAILWAY WAGONS

769. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a disagreement between his Ministry and the wagon-building industry in the country over the prices of railway wagons :