

**Independent authority to fix railway fares**

1977. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a proposal to have an independent authority to fix railway fares;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the long term strategy for fixing railway fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare structure is an ongoing process. Such exploratory exercises are carried out from time to time for fixation of fares.

**Halt stations for Qazigund-Baramulla train**

1978. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Qazigund—Baramulla train is a small distance local train requiring stations at shorter distances;
- (b) whether Railways have received demands for establishing of new stations/halt stations; and
- (c) whether halt stations would be established at Puchal, Ratnipora and Naina Batpora on this railway line to accommodate the popular demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Qazigund–Baramulla is a 120 km section. 4 pairs of DMU (Diesel Multiple Unit) trains are running on this section.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) At present, no decision has been taken to establish these halt stations.

**Railway projects in Himachal Pradesh**

1979. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the ongoing/pending railway projects along with the survey conducted in Himachal Pradesh;