

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments to this proposal?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The National Development Council has suggested to the State Governments that programmes for expanding the fleets of the State Road Transport Undertakings for passenger service should be held in abeyance or curtailed to the minimum, and where possible, deferred.

(b) The reason which appears to have weighed with the Council is that the productive capacity of the automobile industry should be conserved for more important uses, including military needs.

(c) There is no nationalised service in Pondicherry while the transport services are completely nationalised in Himachal Pradesh. The question of the Himachal Pradesh and Pondicherry Government taking any action on the suggestion does not arise.

The Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation is reviewing its programmes of nationalisation for the years 1964-65 and 1965-66.

The U.P. Roadways have deferred 10 out of the 32 schemes published by them and further publication of new schemes has also been deferred.

The proposal to nationalise road transport services in Tripura has been postponed.

The Government of Kerala have stated that the advice of the National Development Council will be kept in view by them.

The Manipur State Transport and Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation have reported that they are going slow with their nationalisation programmes.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation have been advised to finance their nationalisation programmes from their internal re-

sources and not to ask for any capital contribution from the Central Government or the State Government.

The Government of Punjab have regretted their inability to act on the advice of the National Development Council, since any postponement or deferment of the programmes in the Ambala and Jullunder regions will be contrary to the agreement of the State with the private operators to run transport services on a 50:50 basis.

The other States have not yet communicated their views.

Road Board

***473. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 350 on the 12th March, 1963 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the proposal for setting up a Road Board; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

Timber Shortage

***474. { Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal:
Shri Badrudduja:
Shri N. P. Yadav:
Shri H. P. Chatterjee:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether long-term plans have been drawn to meet 100 million ton deficit in timber and fuel; and

(b) if so, the outline thereof and the arrangements made to ensure financing of such plans?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). A 15 year programme for raising fast grow-