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- 3. State Governments and Union Territories should formulate a time bound programme to give employment to blind persons registered in employment exch-
- 4. The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped should be taken over by Government.
- 5. Braille Press should be established in each State.
- 6. The DRI Scheme should be reviewed.
- 7. Permanent identity card should be issued to every blind person.
- 8. Scholarship Scheme should be revised after every three years.

The Ministry has requested State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for promoting employment of disabled persons. All State Governments except Bihar, Kerala and Sikkim have made reservations for the handicapped in posts under the control of the State Governments.

The Institute is already under the control of the Government and fully funded by Government. It has been registered as a Society in order to give it internal freedom and autonomy.

This suggestion has been forwarded to all the State Governments. Five States have set up Braille presses of their own and two others are in the process of setting up Braille presses.

This Ministry has taken up the matter with the Department of Economic Affairs, which is reviewing the Scheme.

Some State Governments and Union Territories have already issued such identity cards. The Central Government is considering introduction of a common identity card valied throughout the country.

The Scholarship Scheme was revised during 1982-83. The current rates are the same as applicable to normal students under the National Scholarship Scheme.

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## Rail Line from Sahajnwa-Balrampur

5884. DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR-TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAIL WAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey was conducted for a new rail line from Sahajnwa to Bairampur via Bansi in 1977-78;

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- (b) if so whether Government have taken a decision to construct this rail line; and
- (c) if so, the time by which this raff line is likely to be completed; and

## (d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS THE (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A survey was conducted in 1979, for a new BG rail line from Khalilabad, near Sahjanwa, to Balrampur, via Bansi.

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(b) to (d) The survey showed that the project would not be financially remunerative. In view of severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand there is no proposal to take up construction of this line.