

(a) the number of villages electrified in Andhra Pradesh and the number that are still to be electrified;

(b) whether it is below the level of All India percentage; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to sort out the regional imbalances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) 22,455 villages have been electrified in Andhra Pradesh till the end of February, 1985. 4,766 villages remain to be electrified in the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Naupada-Ganupur Line into Broad Gauge

4400. SHRI H. A. DORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred to run the narrow-gauge railway from Naupada in Andhra Pradesh to Gunupur in Orissa;

(b) whether it is economically viable; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert this rail line into broad gauge rail line in view of importance of this line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The expenditure incurred on Naupada-Gunupur narrow gauge line during 1983-84 was about Rs. 44.83 lakhs excluding dividend liability.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Issue of All India Road Permits

4401. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any norms, rules,

regulations for the issue of All India Road Permits for taxis, trucks and buses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy is uniform in all State or the respective States have their own rules and regulations;

(d) whether the multi-point tax system or single point tax in respect of all the vehicles is in vogue in all these States; and

(e) if so, whether there is any uniformity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). All India Tourist Permits for motor cars (taxies) and buses and National Permits for public carrier are issued under Section 63 (7) and under Section 63 (11) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 respectively. The permits are issued by respective State Transport Authorities. The Policy and procedure to be observed uniformly in regard to issue of National Permits for Public carriers is provided in Section 63 (11) to Section 63 (15) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 and rules made thereunder by the Central Government. Regulations governing the grant of All India Tourist Permits are laid down in Section 63 (7) to (10) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. While considering applications for allotments of permits, the State Transport Authorities lay down criteria consistent with these provisions, also taking into account any special local requirements.

(d) and (e). The holders of National Permits for public carriers pay a uniform compounded rate of composite tax based on single point taxation basis to the States which they choose for operation. As regards the All India Permit Scheme for tourist vehicles, it was mutually agreed by the State Government that the holders of permits issued under Section 63 (7) may be required to pay only the taxes of the Home State and shall be exempted from payment of taxes of other States. This facility of exemption of taxes afforded by the State Govt. was on reciprocal basis. Of late, some of the States have withdrawn this exemption.