

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). 22 estimates of the State P.W.D. for Road and Bridge works on National Highways in Orissa relating to improvement of geometrics, widening to two-lanes, reconstruction of culverts, land acquisition and construction of a bridge over River Brahmini near Bonaigarh are currently with the Ministry and are in various stages of examination.

Due to non-availability of funds, the Government of India are unable at present to consider any new proposals for declaration of state road routes as National Highway and this applies to Orissa also.

Uniformity of standard in medical education

2771. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India issued mandatory directives to introduce combined Eye/ENT examination in all the medical colleges in the country with a view to bring uniformity of standard in medical education;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Aligarh Muslim University have not implemented it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes. The recommendations of the Medical Council of India on Under-graduate Medical Education, notified as regulations by the Government of India, in November, 1977, provide that a separate paper, consisting of two parts, an Eye and ENT, should be a part of the final MBBS examination.

(b) and (c). The Aligarh Muslim University has not yet reported the implementation of this regulation.

Unused Railway Land

2772. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is in the possession of the Railways a stretch of land less than one kilometre in length extending from the Quilon Railway Station to Asramam, for which the Railways have no use and which is now being used by anti-social elements for nefarious purposes;

(b) whether requests have been received from Quarters like the Quilon Municipality to have this land transferred to them for inclusion in slum-clearance programme; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The land referred to forms part of the wharf siding (about 870 metres long) at Ashramam, Quilon, which is at present not in use. At the instance of the State Government, the land has at present been allowed to be occupied temporarily by people who were earlier occupying land in Quilon Railway yard and which they had to vacate, as the land was required in connection with yard remodelling works. Quilon Municipality asked for transfer of a part of this land in September 1979 for a taxi stand (and not for slum clearance programme). This was not agreed to as the wharf siding is likely to be re-commissioned in the future.

Conversion of Viramgam-Delhi M.G.

2773. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a project of converting the Viramgam-Mehsana-Delhi track from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, the cost thereof; and