

on this firm. Further they have been debarred from receiving licences or allotment of imported goods through STC/MMTC or any other similar agency for the period from 16-11-77 to 31-3-78 and licensing period April-78 to March-79.

### Construction of Malda-Balurghat Railway Line

2831. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of North Bengal (West Bengal) have been urging upon the Government to draw up a scheme for construction of Malda-Balurghat-Hilli railway line;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal;

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn; and

(d) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A traffic survey for a rail link between Eklakhi and Balurbhat via Gajol, Buniadpur, Ganga Rampur and Rampur was carried out during 1972-73. The line having a length of 90.00 Kms. (BG) was estimated to cost Rs. 10.37 crores and to yield a return of (—) 2.27 per cent in the 6th year. Due to severe constraint of resources and the very limited traffic prospects it is not proposed to take up the construction of this project at present.

### Nationalisation of Foreign Drug Firms

2832. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has considered the recommendation on the nationalisation of foreign drug firms;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to nationalise the foreign drug firms; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). All the recommendations of the Hathi Committee are under the active consideration of Government and a final decision is expected to be taken very soon.

### Amount Repatriated by Assam Oil and BOC

2833. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: SHRI G. M. BANATAWALLA: SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) total amount repatriated by Assam Oil Company and Burma Oil Company under each head, viz., profit, dividend, royalty, technical fees, interest and head office expenses, year-wise from 1964—76;

(b) whether the deal to take over AOC and 50 per cent shareholding of BOC has been finalised;

(c) if so, the terms and conditions, including quantum of compensation to be paid; and

(d) on what basis the quantum of compensation to be paid to these companies has been determined?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha

(b) to (d). Negotiations for the take over of Assam Oil Company and B. O. C.'s interest in Oil India Limited including the amount of compensation and the mode of payment are continuing.