

**Sealdah-Bongaon Section Unremunerative**

1366. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of the Eastern Railway has been proved to be an unremunerative one ever since its inception;

(b) if so, full facts on the basis of which such conclusion was drawn;

(c) the names of the Suburban Railways under the Indian Railways which have been found to be remunerative under the existing norms of remunerativeness with full facts relevant thereto;

(d) the names of the unremunerative Suburban Railways in the country particularly around Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Calcutta; and

(e) what steps have been taken to make an unremunerative line into a remunerative one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The cost analysis of remunerativeness or otherwise of a section is not worked out by the Railway administration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Suburban service in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras metropolitan areas are running at a loss of approximately Rs. 31 crores (Estimated figures for 1977-78). Separate figures for each suburban section/service are not maintained.

(e) The question of rationalisation of passenger fare structure both for suburban and Non-suburban traffic vis-a-vis the cost of operation is being examined in depth by the Rail Tariff

Esquiry Committee set up by the Government.

**Extension of Railway Line in Tripura**

1367. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Tripura met the Railway Minister on 12th January, 1978 and had discussions with him about certain proposals regarding the extension of Railway lines in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details of the specific proposals; and

(c) the steps taken on the proposals?

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

(b) and (c). The Chief Minister had proposed extension of railway line in Tripura from Dharmanagar to Kumarghat in the first stage and thereafter upto Agartala and Sabroom. The Planning Commission have appointed a Committee to examine the proposals made by the North Eastern Council for construction of 6 new railway lines including the Dharmanagar-Kumarghat line in the North Eastern Region during the 8th Plan period and to make recommendations about the viability of the schemes, taking into account the social costs and the social benefits in each case. The decision for construction of these lines would depend upon the clearance of the Committee's recommendations by the Planning Commission.

**Cases pending in High Courts**

1368. SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA:  
SHRI D. B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for more than one year, two years and three years, separately, in various High Courts in the country; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for their expeditious disposal?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE  
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI  
SHANTI BHUSHAN):**

**Statement**

(a) Number of cases pending for more than one year but less than 2 years, more than 2 years but less than 3 years and more than 3 years in the High Courts as on 31-12-1977.

Name of the High Court	More than one year but less than 2 years	More than 2 years but less than 3 years	More than 3 years
Allahabad . . .	25,066	18,838	54,809
Andhra Pradesh . . .	2,640	781	123
Bombay	11,357	7,428	19,650
Calcutta	13,580*	12,212*	30,740*
Delhi	4,348	3,290	11,436
Gauhati . . .	1,559	1,435	1,924
Gujarat . . .	2,721	1,961	2,023
Himachal Pradesh	992	563	1,224
Jammu & Kashmir	1,327	530	614
Karnatak . . .	10,051*	4,464*	4,419*
Kerala . . .	15,730	3,852	1,219
Madhya Pradesh	6,846*	4,904*	12,238*
Madras	12,169	9,226	9,232
Orissa	1,631	543	876
Patna . . .	5,583*	2,636*	10,009*
Punjab & Haryana	8,023	6,302	14,549
Rajasthan	3,034*	2,492*	7,650*
Sikkim			
<b>TOTAL PENDENCY IN HIGH COURTS</b>	<b>1,26,657</b>	<b>81,447</b>	<b>1,82,735</b>

\* Main cases only.

(b) The following steps have been taken to speed up the disposal of cases:—

(i) A substantial number of vacancies in the High Courts have been filled up. Initiative has been

taken by the Central Government to call for proposals from the State Authorities/Chief Justices and wherever required reminders have been issued to the concerned State Authorities/Chief Justices. During

the period from 1st April, 1977 to 20th July, 1978 as many as 70 fresh appointments have been made.

(ii) The Judge strength have also been increased since 1-4-1977 in the High Courts in respect of which proposals were received. This increase has been made in the following High Courts from the dates the posts are filled up:—

Name of the High Court	Increased by Pmt.	by Adtl.
Allahabad		6
Madhya Pradesh		6
Karnataka	1	3
Himachal Pradesh		1
Patna	..	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>

(iii) Letters have been addressed to the Bar Councils and Bar Associations of various States requesting them for cooperation and also for suggestions for speedy disposal of cases:

(iv) The Law Commission have been requested to suggest suitable measures to tackle the general problem of arrears. They are seized of the matter.

**Proposal to make Presentation and Acceptance of Dowry a Cognizable Offence**

1369. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to

bring forward a Bill to make presentation and acceptance of dowry a cognizable offence throughout the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are considering amendment of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, to make it more effective. The question of making the offences under the Act cognizable is also under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

**Advance paid by M/s Shyam Agencies to M/s Shewnarayan Khub Chand**

1370. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that M/s. Shyam Agencies, Calcutta paid an advance of Rs. 30,000 to M/s. Shewnarayan Khub Chand (sole selling distributor) on the advice of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for the supply of S.B.P. sometimes back;

(b) whether M/s. Shyam Agencies were not supplied with S.B.P. and nor the earnest money was refunded to them;

(c) whether Government have also seized of the matter and have not taken any action against the defaulters M/s. Shewnarayan Khub Chand; and

(d) whether Government propose to get this matter investigated through C.B.I. and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) to (d). M/s. Shyam Agencies (SA), Calcutta are Resellers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) and normally draw their requirements