

country. These Zonal offices have also Drugs Inspectors carry out joint inspections of premises of drug manufacturers alongwith the State Authorities to ensure that they conform to the standards laid down under the law.

(xii) The technical competence of the Drugs Inspectors employed by State Governments is brought up to date by the Central Drugs Control Organisation which has arranged a training programme for Drugs Inspectors. This is a running programme and State Governments have been availing themselves of this facility.

(c) The Central Council of Health, which consists of the Union Health Minister and the State Health Ministers, has from time to time been recommending that the State Governments should take steps to strengthen and reorganise their enforcement machinery for Drug Control. The specific recommendation made by the Central Council of Health is as under:—

The States should reorganise the Drug Control Machinery so that there is—

(1) a whole-time officer, technically conversant with the manufacture and testing of drugs, in-charge of the Drug Control Organisation;

(2) an adequate number of Drug Inspectors on a reasonably attractive salary;

(3) a well-organised analytical laboratory capable of testing samples of all categories of drugs; and

(4) a Legal com-Intelligence Cell suitably equipped for tackling the problem of spurious drugs with the help of the Police Administration and for processing legal cases.

The provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the Rules thereunder are adequate for taking action against persons indulging in fake

drugs. There is therefore, no proposal to use the Preventive Detention Act against drug fakers.

Bankura-Asansol Rail Connection

486. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by his Ministry to connect Bankura and Purulia Districts with Asansol by rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Both Purulia and Bankura are already connected to Asansol by BG line. In the past following surveys have been done to connect these districts with BG line:

(i) *Bankura-Mejhia-Raniganj new BG rail link.*—A survey was undertaken at the instance and cost of Govt. of West Bengal for this rail link in 1977 with the object of movement of coal from Mejhia Coal-fields to Kolaghat Thermal Power Station. Further consideration to this project, which involves construction of a major bridge over the Damodar River, can be given after the firm plans for exploitation of Mejhia coal-fields and the linkages therefrom are available.

(ii) *Conversion of Purulia-Kotshila narrow gauge line into broad gauge*—The question of updating the earlier engineering-cum-traffic survey for converting this line is engaging the attention of Government.

(iii) *Construction of a BG line from Bankura to Durgapur via Beliatare.*—Economic feasibility of laying a BG line from Bankura to Durgapur via Beliatare has not been examined so far. On a rough assessment the new BG line will be about 45 kms. long and will cost around Rs. 8 crores excluding the construction of a major bridge over Damodar river which will cost another Rs. 10 crores.