

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has agreed while inaugurating the World Book Fair to consider a proposal to revive the National Book Development Board; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is looking into the various aspects of reconstituting the Board in the context of present requirements in the book field.

Electrification of High Density Routes Among Metropolitan Cities

2060. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the high density routes, other than the routes among four metropolitan cities;

(b) whether Government are planning to electrify these routes in the coming future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MILLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) A number of Broad gauge routes carrying coal, foodgrain etc. have high density of traffic some of them viz. Gudur-Renigunta-Arkonam-Jollarpettai & Bhopal-Nagda have been approved for Electrification in the VI Plan. Further routes will be taken up based on funds available and their interest priorities with other trunk

routes which have been accorded the highest priority.

Electrification of B.G. routes

2061. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning for rapid electrification of the entire broad gauge routes;

(b) if so, details of the plan and the priority areas identified to be covered in the 6th Plan; and

(c) the reaction of Planning Commission in this matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, but the pace of electrification is being accelerated.

(b) and (c) Some unelectrified trunk routes connecting Delhi; e.g. from Bombay or between major towns like Madras-Delhi have been given priority for taking up electrification works during the Sixth Five Year Plan. These have the approval of the Planning Commission.

Increase in central assistance to Medical Colleges by Centre

2062. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase central assistance allocation to the medical colleges for involving students in rural medical care on an increased scale under the centrally sponsored scheme for re-orientation of medical education;