

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Education particularly school education, is still primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The pay scales of teachers are determined *inter-alia* on the consideration of the wage structure obtaining in the State, as also the financial capacity of individual State Governments.

Sutahata Station

9201. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for opening of the Sutahata station in the Panskura-Haldia Section of the South Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). On the opening of the Panskura-Haldia Branch line, out of nine stations envisaged, six stations were opened. The remaining three stations, namely Sutahata, Kilmal and Keshabpur were not opened for financial reasons. Subsequently also on a review, the proposals were found unremunerative with heavy recurring financial losses to the Railway.

However, the proposal for opening of Sutahata station for traffic is again under examination by the South Eastern Railway and the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken shortly.

More Financial and Administrative Powers to Deputy Chairman, Haldia Port

9202. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently given more financial and administrative powers to the Deputy Chairman, Haldia Port and have started the backdoor process of delinking Haldia Port from Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details and what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of an Express Train from Purulia to Howrah

9203. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from Government of West Bengal in connection with introduction of an express train from Purulia to Howrah in South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Introduction of an express train between Purulia and Howrah is not possible at present due to acute shortage of coaching stock and for want of adequate terminal facilities at Purulia and Howrah.