

(i) *Bhadrachalam Road-Kovvur (B.G. 148.05 Kms)*

A cost-cum-feasibility Study was carried out in 1965-66. Since this revealed that this line would not be financially viable, this project was deferred. However, with a view to finding out the present traffic prospects of this line, a reassessment of the earlier feasibility study report is now in progress.

(ii) *Secunderabad-Nadikude B.G. line with the Conversion of the Guntur-Macherla M.G. section into B.G. (280.86 Kms).*

Preliminary Engineering and Traffic Surveys have recently (1969-70) been carried out for this project and the survey reports are, at present, under examination. According to the survey reports, the project may cost about Rs. 20.13 crores (gross). A final decision regarding this project will be taken after the examination of the reports is completed from all angles.

(c) The details of new lines to be taken up in the Fourth Plan have not yet been finalised. It is, therefore, not possible to say at this stage which lines, if any, will be taken up on the South Central Railway.

Development of Jhalawar District in Rajasthan.

2243. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH KOTAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to develop industries in 200 special Districts in India owing to their backwardness ; and

(b) if so, what plans are being made for Jhalawar District in Rajasthan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Government have selected certain districts/areas, as per list laid on Table of the House, for grant of concessional finance from the financial institutions for starting industries there. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—420/71] Jhalawar in the State of Rajasthan is one of the districts selected for the purpose. The concessions and the facilities to be allowed by the financial institutions will help to accelerate the pace of industrial development in these districts and it is hoped that entrepreneurs would take full benefit of the various concessions.

Bogie for II and III class passengers with Frontiers Mail running between Delhi and Bombay

2244 RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI—JODHPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the Frontier Mail running between Delhi and Bombay, only one bogie is attached for II class and III class passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide more bogies for II class and III class passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) (a) : No, there are two III class sleeper coaches, one ordinary III class coach, one composite III class-cum-luggage and brakevan, one composite III class-cum-postal van and one II class sleeper coach in the composition of 3 Dn/4 Up Frontier Mail.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Salaries of the Judges

2245. RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI—JODHPUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware

that the inadequate salaries of the Judges have tended to erode the status and independence of the judiciary; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to raise the salaries of the Judges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b). There is a feeling that the salaries of Judges as provided in the Constitution are not attractive enough in the changed conditions and that able members of the Bar are not willing to accept Judgeship. It would however not be correct to say that this has tended to erode the status and independence of the Judiciary. A proposal was considered by Government recently to raise the salaries of the Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court by Rs. 500 - per month. As the proposal involved constitutional amendment, the leaders of political parties in Parliament were consulted but the consensus of opinion was not in favour of raising the salaries of Judges. The proposal had therefore to be dropped.

Appointment of Foreign Consultants in Private and Public Sector Projects.

2246. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in several public and private sector projects, consultants of foreign nationals have been appointed;

(b) whether several Indian firms consultants have already offered to provide consultancy service to such sectors on cheaper basis; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is now the Government's policy not to encourage foreign consultancy services in industries where the requisite consultancy services are indigenously available. Foreign consultancy services have been permitted only in those fields where either such services are not indigenously available or where services available are not considered adequate. However, even where foreign consultancy is permitted, a condition is now being stipulated that Indian consultants should also be associated from the very beginning and, as a rule, be the prime agency employed for consultancy.

Production of Paper

2247. SHRI YAJNIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ad-hoc Committee on paper has made any recommendations to Government after considering the representation of the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers regarding the rising prices of popular varieties of paper ;

(b) whether Government have urged the paper industry to adhere to the 1968 pattern of production of paper biased in favour of lighter paper;

(c) whether any licences have been issued to any company with the condition to use new capacity exclusively for producing white paper ;

(d) whether any crash programme for production of one lakh ton of white paper has been implemented; and

(e) the result of the measures taken by Government ?