

(c) and (d). The programmes undertaken under the various Five Year Plans are aimed at raising the economic conditions of the masses of the country.

Criteria to Determine Backwardness

4099. SHRI B. P. MANDAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have fixed only the economic status of an individual to decide his backwardness; and

(b) whether Government consider that such criteria is most unsuitable and unjust inasmuch as in a caste-ridden Society several castes and communities are socially handicapped due to birth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA]: (a) and (b). There communities which have been suffering from tangible handicaps based on the practice of untouchability have been declared as Scheduled Castes. As regards the Other Backward Classes, the Supreme Court has ruled that caste alone cannot be made a criterion for determining backwardness.

Restoration of Old Nirmali-Supaul Line (North Eastern Rly.)

4100. SHRI B. P. MANDAL:

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the Kosi floods being under control due to the completion of Kosi barrage, Government contemplate to restore the old Nirmali-Bhaptiahi-Supaul line of the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) No.

(b) Supaul-Thurbhita section has already been opened. The restoration of the section from Thurbhita to Bhaptiahi is at present in progress and will be completed by June, 1970. It is proposed to watch the working of the sections after restoration and the behaviour of the River Kosi for some time before considering any scheme for re-establishing a rail link Bhaptiahi on the one side of the river Kosi and Nirmali on the other. In any case such a scheme would involve considerable expenditure due to heavy bridging over the Kosi River, and hence it is not likely to be financially viable.

Grant of Licences to High Quality Steel Ltd., and Bihar Alloy Steel Ltd.

4101. SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 42 on the 18th November, 1969 and state:

(a) whether the High Quality Steel Limited and the Bihar Alloy Steel Limited to whom licences to produce alloy steel were granted on the 19th August, 1961 and 14th January, 1966, respectively, have already started production; and

(b) if so, the actual production capacity of these two companies at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Narula Finance Private Ltd., Delhi

4102. SHRI R. BARUA:

SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether falsification of accounts is one of the charges against the Narula Finance Pvt. Ltd., Delhi