

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you know that Rajasthan is the most backward area in the field of railways, specially Jhunjhunu and Sikar. There is no train from there for Delhi during day time in spite of the fact that it is situated at a very short distance from Delhi. Is the hon. Minister going to provide any such facility for Shekhawati or whether any proposal is under consideration to start a day train from Shekhawati to Delhi?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: The hon. Minister desires to know whether we are going to formulate any scheme in this connection. We are prepared to make a scheme provided we get the resources from the Planning Commission. It will certainly be considered when we get additional funds from Planning Commission.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has mentioned about conducting surveys at various places. Many positive steps have been taken after such surveys but complete work is not being done there, like the conversion of Bhatni-Varanasi railway line.

Similarly, at other places also, in spite of requests made by the Ministry of Defence, the work has not started after conducting the survey by the Ministry of Railways. Will the hon. Minister consider this matter?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Minister regarding Bhatni-Varanasi line. An amount of Rs. 9 crores was granted for this purpose and the Government is considering it. If the Planning Commission grants the funds, then the Government can expedite the work of gauge conversion

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Housing Scheme of Unit Trust of India

*206. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly approved housing scheme of the Unit Trust of India is proposed to be extended to Orissa; and

(b) if so, the time by which such a scheme would be launched there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Unit Trust of India (UTI) proposes to cover all parts of the country under their proposed Housing Scheme. The UTI has not yet decided on the date of launching of the Scheme. UTI proposes to launch the scheme only after all the details are finalised in consultation with the Government.

Financing of Elections by the State

*209. **SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered financing of elections by the State and reduce the election expenses considerably;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the results likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Amongst other proposals for electoral reforms, there is a proposal for state funding of election expenses incurred by a candidate. The proposals in this regard are under consideration.

Rise in Consumer Price Index

*210. **SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN:**
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: