

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Hon. Minister let the House know whether the Government is aware of the fact that there was a demand from the engineers of the HSEB that the HSEB should be headed by a technocrat? Since its inception it was being headed by bureaucrats. Has there been any improvement after the Board is being headed by an engineer? Is it also a fact that there is some sort of a tussle because of the wholesale transfers of engineers, not one, but about eighty, by the HSEB authorities and it has adversely affected the functioning of the plants?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is not correct to say that it is because of these personnel problems that the performance is very poor (*Interruptions*). He mentioned about the wholesale transfer of engineers. I do not think, this is the reason for the poor performance.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is not the answer.

New Line Connecting Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Jn.

*125. **SHRI ANAND PATHAK**
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for construction of a new Broad Gauge-cum-Metro Gauge line connecting New Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Junction via Rangapani and thus avoid frequent traffic jams in the heart of Siliguri town; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the above proposal in the larger interest of the people of North Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir, However, as an alternative to construction of road over bridge

in replacement of level crossing on Hilcart Road in Siliguri, N.F. Railway submitted a proposal to divert the existing MG/NG lines between Siliguri town and New Jalpaiguri stations along the east bank of the Mahananda river to avoid traffic congestion in Siliguri town.

(b) As the diversion of Railway line is in lieu of Road Over Bridge, the State Government of West Bengal has been requested to agree to share 50% of the cost as per extant rules.

SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Sir, the reply is very vague. My question has not been adequately answered.

Siliguri is a fast developing town and in a sense, it is called the gateway of North Bengal. Thousands of people from different parts of North Bengal, North-Eastern region, Sikkim, Bhutan and other places pass through Siliguri and all the essential commodities etc. are also transported for these areas through Siliguri. The level crossing and the railway gate near Siliguri town Station have stood as stumbling blocks for the smooth flow of traffic. The gate remains closed quite frequently, several times during the day as well night. This causes serious traffic congestion in the busiest business centre of the town, and the road communication is dislocated for hours together.

All the people, mass organisations and political parties of the North Bengal have been demanding removal of the rail gate and diversion of the line from Rangapani. I would like to know whether the Government will consider this most vital demand of the people and adopt remedial measures immediately.

SHRI BANSI LAL : It can be done only if the State Government pays 50 per cent, except the land cost.

SHRI ANAND PATHAK : It is stated that the NFR is also in favour

of such diversion and this proposal has been forwarded to the State Government. I would like to know from the Minister what the reaction of the State Government is and whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has accepted the proposal.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The State Government has not conveyed its approval so far.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the extant rule made in the statement of the second part of the reply would be followed for all the States or exemption is made in the case of some States, and if so, the reasons thereof and the names of such States.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The rule is applicable to all the States.

Manufacture of Quality Drugs

*126. **SHRI R.P. DAS :**



DR. SARADISH ROY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 15 per cent of the samples of Indian drugs tested in Government laboratories are proved to be substandard ;

(b) if so, how Government propose to ensure quality of drugs manufactured by the indigenous manufacturers;

(c) if, no such proposals are there, by what time some working arrangement for manufacture of quality drugs would be evolved by Government; and

(d) steps proposed to penalise the erring drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The specific measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality of drugs manufactured in the country include amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in 1982 to provide for additional powers for drug inspectors as well as stringent penalties for certain offences, appointment of a Task Force to go into the entire problem of spurious and sub-standard drugs, conducting training programmes for drug inspectors and drug analysts and assisting the States in carrying out inspections of manufacturing firms, approved drug testing laboratories, blood-banks etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act contains adequate penal and administrative provisions against the manufacturers whose products have been found to be sub-standard. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act has recently been amended in 1982 to make the penal provisions more stringent.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Sir, this question of sub-standard and spurious drugs was raised in the House several times in the past two-three years and each time, the Ministry gave the same reply in different languages. The intended measures are never equal to the situation of growing incidence of manufacture, distribution and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs all over the country. At long last, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was passed and the Government got it amended in 1982. After that, the Government formed one Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri S. Mani. It gave a few good recommendations which were considered for a long time. After the Government came the conclusion that these recommendations could not be accepted *in toto*. Now the Minister says that adequate penal administrative provisions have been made to tackle the growing incidence of manufacture of sub-standard and spurious drugs,