

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conversion of Rewari-Bhatinda Line

*470. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the metre gauge section of Rewari-Bhatinda railway line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, by what time it will be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

National Transport Policy Committee

*474. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether in view of the recommendation of the National Transport Policy Committee, electrification of the left-out sections of the Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of the Eastern Railway will be taken up expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): No, Sir.

Financial Assistance to States which are Backward in Communication

*475. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) *per capita* extent of National Highways in different States; and

(b) have the Government taken any steps to augment financial assistance to those States which are backward in communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) The Government of India are constitutionally responsible for the National Highways. Funds for the National Highways are not given on any area or regional basis. Several factors such as the basic deficiencies existing in a National Highway route, the need and urgency for making up those deficiencies and further needs for improvements as determined by traffic intensities, geographic/climatic/environmental conditions, works in progress, requirements of funds projected by the States, their admissibility and overall availability of resources govern the allotment of funds to the States.