

New British nationality law

*48. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA
S. DEO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the racist bias of the New British Nationality Bill, which will relegate the Indian immigrants to the status of second citizens;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto;

(c) whether India's concern has also been recently conveyed to the British Government over the steadily rising number of entry-refusal to Indians wanting to visit Britain; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Government have studied the new British Nationality Bill.

(b) We have maintained that the British Immigration and Nationality Laws are a matter for the British Government and Parliament to determine and decide. At the same time, the Government of India has made all possible efforts in the past and will continue to make similar efforts in the future so that the people of Indian origin settled in UK live with honour and dignity. A few provisions in the Nationality Bill appear to have features of racial discrimination. These have been brought to the attention of the British authorities. We have now received reports that amendments are being proposed by the British Government to mitigate these features. We are awaiting the text of these amendments.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The British reaction has been that they will look into the matter and the Immigration Officers would be instructed not to adopt a rigid attitude.

Ropes bangriposi line

*52. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a memorandum had been submitted by Orissa Government in December, 1977 to the former Railway Minister for the conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry will implement the proposal for the conversion of the said railway line to broad gauge line during this financial year;

(c) if not, when this proposal will be taken into consideration; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. As a follow-up action, a reconnaissance engineering-cum-traffic survey for conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge line into broad gauge and its extension upto Chakulia/Gurumahisani or some other suitable point to Tatanagar-Kharagpur main line was ordered in July 1978. The field work of the survey has already been completed. The survey report being finalised by the South Eastern Railway administration is expected to be received shortly. A decision will be taken on receipt of the survey report and its evaluation.

Setting up of national population commission

*53. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research and Indian Council of Social Science Research have recently suggested for setting up a National Population Commission; and