

dent that this question can be resolved through discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka.

#### Karur—Dindigul line

\*164. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the scheme of having a broad gauge line between Karur and Dindigul stands at present;

(b) when the conversion of metre gauge line between Dindigul and Tuticorin would be taken up; and

(c) when the conversion of metre gauge line between Tuticorin and Tirunelveli would be taken up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Planning Commission's clearance for taking up the works has not yet been received.

#### Filling up of posts of Senior Research Officers in Ministry of Health

1401. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts of Senior Research Officers dealing with Statistical functions have been created in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the scale equivalent to Grade III of the Indian Statistical Service and filled up by appointing persons other than those belonging to the Indian Statistical Service Grade IV; and

(b) if so, the number of such posts and the reasons for not giving them to the Grade IV officers of the Indian Statistical Service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). Three temporary posts of Senior

Research Officers with Statistical functions have been created in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the pay scale of Rs. 1100-1600, one in the Department of Family Welfare and two in the Department of Health. The posts are being continued on year to year basis. The post created in the Department of Family Welfare has already been proposed for inclusion in Grade III of Indian Statistical Service. The question of offering the other two posts for inclusion in the Indian Statistical Service or to frame different recruitment rules for the posts is under consideration of the Government. Pending finalisation of encadrement of the post of Senior Research Officer created in the Department of Family Welfare in Grade III of ISS, the post has been filled on *ad-hoc* basis from officer dealing with Statistical functions and holding a Group A post in the scale of Rs. 700-1300 in the Department of Family Welfare. The other two posts created in the Department of Health have also been filled on *ad-hoc* basis from officers dealing with Statistical functions and holding Group A posts in the scale of Rs. 700-1300 in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare till such time the posts are either offered for inclusion in ISS or separate recruitment rules are finalised, as the case may be.

#### Four lane road for National Highway between Amritsar and New Delhi.

1402. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have pressed the Centre to convert the National Highway between Amritsar and New Delhi into a four-lane road and complete the work within the Sixth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have provided funds for this project; and

(c) the progress so far made in the implementation of this project;