

(b) The claim is to be decided by the Arbitrator and further action will only be taken after an award is given by the arbitrator, who has already entered into reference.

Electrification of Delhi—Amritsar Line

*364. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has urged upon the Union Government to take up the electrification of the Delhi—Amritsar rail track on a priority basis during the Sixth Plan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to limitation of funds priority has been given to the other high density routes on the basis of traffic density, growth of traffic, continuity of run without changes in the modes of traction. The route is adequately served with Diesel traction, which with equal capabilities is to be preferred in a border State.

Raniganj—Bankura Track

*365. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAUDHARY:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the latest progress made on the proposed track that needs to be laid between Raniganj and Bankura via Mejhia on the basis of the blueprint that has already been prepared by the S.E. Railways at the request of the West Bengal Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The survey earlier

done at the request of the West Bengal Government is now being reappraised and updated on the basis of information given by the Ministry of Energy regarding the volume of coal traffic. The report of the reappraisal is expected to be received shortly and the matter will be considered in the light to the report.

Crash Programme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*366. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1915 on 4th March, 1982 regarding Crash Programme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Railway Service and state:

(a) the target time fixed to wipe out the backlog of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the Crash Programme:

(b) the progress made so far in this direction; and

(c) whether any officer has been especially nominated by the Railway Board to watch the progress made in recruitment and promotion of SC/ST at Divisional, Zonal and Ministry level during Crash Programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Crash Programme was in from 1.4.81 to 31.12.81.

(b) 11,169 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe persons have been recruited/promoted in Class III and IV categories (as per preliminary information received from the various Railways/Production Units.)

(c) At the Ministry level, Additional Director, Establishment (Reservations), who is the Head of the Reservation Cell in the Railway Ministry at Zonal Railway level, the Chief Personnel Officers, who have been nominated as the Liaison Officers