

(b) if not, what specific steps were taken, especially when no survey to this effect was carried out during the last fifty years; and

(c) his reaction to the problem and also the steps proposed to be taken to mitigate the hardship people are facing in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c) Bundelkhand region is served by Jhansi-Manikpur-Katni, Katni-Bina and Bina-Jhansi railway lines which run along its periphery. Surveys for a number of railway lines in the Region have been carried out during the last 50 years but the lines were not taken up for construction as they were not found viable. After Independence, a survey was carried out for a new railway line between Mahoba and Khajuraho in 1975. This 54.5 Kms. long line was estimated to cost Rs. 5.95 crores but according to the survey report, it is also not expected to attract sufficient traffic to justify its construction.

Rationing in Petroleum

*35. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce rationing in petroleum in order to supply a fixed quota of petrol to vehicle owners at lower rates, if so, the facts in this regard; and

(b) whether it has been decided to supply petrol to certain category of people at subsidised rates and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Department of Social Welfare have introduced a scheme for refund of 50 per cent of actual expenditure on purchase of Petrol/Diesel (subject to ceiling indicated below) incurred by the Physically Handicapped owners of motorised vehicles effective from 2nd October, 1977:—

Vehicles below 2 Horse Power—15 Litres per month.

Vehicles between 2 and 9 Horse Power—25 Litres per month.

Vehicles of 10 Horse Power and above—50 Litres per month.

Proposals for Electoral Reforms

*36. SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

DR. HENRY AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering electoral reforms in the country;

(b) whether Government have appointed a Sub-Committee for this purpose;

(c) whether the Election Commission has also recently submitted to the Government some proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The proposals are for making comprehensive amendments to the Election Law and are being examined. As the proposals involve the consideration of legal, constitutional and administrative matters relating to elections, it is not possible to say at present when a final decision will be taken on the proposals.