

to population or railway mileage in relation to population.

Replies from all the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations identifying the industrially backward districts have not yet been received and as such it is not possible, at this stage, to name the districts identified as backward.

The Government of Rajasthan have suggested 18 districts including Jhunjhunu as industrially backward and their suggestions along with those of other State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations are under consideration.

Pending Applications for Industrial Licences

*503. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for industrial licences pending with his Ministry as on the 31st December, 1969 ;

(b) how many are for new industries and how many substantial expansion of the existing units ; and

(c) the number of licences issued during the year and the items covered by the licences ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) The number of licence applications pending for over 6 months is 481 while 528 applications were received during the latter half of 1969. Many of these cases will no longer require a licence under the new licensing policy. The cases which require licence are expected to be disposed of very shortly.

(b) Of the pending applications, 382 are for establishment of 'New Industrial Undertakings', 276 for effecting 'Substantial Expansion' of the existing units, 281 for manufacture of new articles and the remaining 70 are for Carrying Business or for change of location of existing undertakings.

(c) During 1969, 221 industrial licences and 331 letters of intent were issued. Details of all licences issued, including the items proposed to be manufactured, are published

in the Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences ; The Weekly Indian Trade Journal and The Monthly Journal of Industry and Trade. Copies of these publications are supplied to the Library of the Parliament.

Direct Passenger Train between Bombay Central and Gandhidham

*504. SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the Bombay Grain Dealers Association asking for a direct Passenger train between Bombay Central and Gandhidham so as to obviate passengers from Gandhidham requiring to change train several times ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 31-12-69 the facility of a direct train between Bombay Central and Gandhidham has already been provided by extending 15 Dn/16Up Bombay-Viramgam Saurashtra Express to/from Gandhidham. No. 119 Dn/120 Up Viramgam Halvad Passenger trains, which connect 5 Dn/6 Up Bombay Central-Saurashtra Mails at Viramgam, have also been extended to/from Gandhidham for the convenience of passengers between Bombay and Gandhidham.

Opinion sought from Law Ministry on issuing of Ordinance on Bank Nationalization.

*505. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance sought the opinion of his Ministry on the Question of issuing an Ordinance in the wake of the Supreme Court declaring the Bank Nationalisation law void ; and

(b) if to, the details of the opinion tendered by his Ministry on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. Law Ministry was consulted in the matter.