

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga MG section into BG is an approved work. A final location engineering survey for preparing a revised estimate is in progress. It will be possible to take up the construction work after completion of the survey. Further conversion beyond Darbhanga to Raxaul or its alternative Muzzarpur-Raxaul may have to be considered after Samastipur-Darbhanga MG to BG conversion makes substantial progress.

The section from Jhanjharpur to Andhrathari which is about half the length between Jhanjharpur and Laukahabazar, is expected to be opened to traffic shortly. Work on the remaining portion is also being progressed with the limited availability of funds.

The State Government of Bihar have been approached to bear the cost of land and earthwork for the Hasanpur-Sakri new line project. The estimate of this work will be considered for sanction after a final reply is received from the State Government

(b) The proposals for providing bigger bridges are under consideration in consultation with the Bihar State Government

Inquiries initiated by MRTP Commission against Companies

556. **SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:**

SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of companies against whom Monopolies and

Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has initiated inquiries during the last six months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDBRATA BARUA): (a) A statement giving the information in respect of Restrictive Trade Practices inquiries initiated by the Commission is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10115/76].

Legislation to extend Legal Aid to the Poor

557. **SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY:**

SHRI M. C. DAGA:

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

(a) what steps, if any, have been taken so far to extend legal aid to the poor;

(b) whether any early legislation is contemplated to ensure adequate legal aid to the poor on an institutional basis; and

(c) whether it is contemplated to reform judicial procedure to bring justice within the reach of the poor and if so how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): (a) Provision has been made in Section 304 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, to provide legal aid to accused at State expenses in certain cases. Similarly, provision has been made in Sections 6 (2) (b) and 7(1) (b) of the Advocates Act, 1961 enabling the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils to render legal aid to the poor.

(b) The matter is under examination

(c) It is proposed to amend Order XXXIII of the Code of Civil Procedure by the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1974 presently pending before the Joint Committee to liberalise the conditions of grant of legal aid to the poor. Other amendments sought to be effected by the Bill are intended to ensure the administration of justice speedier and cheaper."

Criminal Proceedings against Directors of Shaw Wallace and Company

558 SHRI H N MUKERJEE Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Company Law Board has initiated criminal proceedings against Directors of Shaw Wallace and Company, and

(b) if so the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) (a) Yes Sir

(b) Prosecutions were launched against the directors of M/s Shaw Wallace & Co Ltd, Calcutta, in connection with the contraventions of sections 295 and 239 of the Companies Act 1956 which arose out of the loans given to two companies in which a director was interested. The details are as under —

1 Case u/s 295(1) (c) read with sec 295(4)

Before Learned Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta

Accused

- 1 Shri A W B Hayward
- 2 Shri Arun Chakravorty
- 3 Shri B P Poddar
- 4 Shri Prosad Sengupta
- 5 Shri S P Acharya
- 6 Shri Santanu Chowdhury
- 7 Shri Hanuman Prosad Poddar
- 8 Sardar Ajab Singh

2 Case u/s 295(1) (e) read with sec 295(4)

Before the Learned 14th Metropolitan Magistrate, Calcutta

Accused

- 1 Shri A W B Hayward
- 2 Shri Arun Chakravorty
- 3 Shri B P Poddar
- 4 Shri Prosad Sengupta
- 5 Shri S P Acharya
- 6 Shri Santanu Chowdhury
- 7 Shri Hanuman Prosad Poddar

Case u/s 299(4)

Before the Learned Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Calcutta

Accused

- 1 Shri B P Poddar

Talks with Kuwaiti Delegation in India

559 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state

(a) whether a Kuwaiti delegation led by the Minister for Oil visited our country during December, 1975 and held talks with the senior officials of Petro-Chemical Corporation, and

(b) if so the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI) (a) Yes, Sir