

**Direct train for Gauhati-North
Lakhimpur-Jorai**

149. **SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI**: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is a proposal under the consideration of his Ministry for introducing a through train for Gauhati-North Lakhimpur-Jorai?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): No such proposal is under consideration at present.

**Memorandum from the employees of
Smith Stanistreet & Co., Calcutta**

150. **SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE**. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have got any memorandum from the employees of Smith Stanistreet & Co. Ltd., Calcutta regarding the conditions of the company and of the employees working there, if so, the main features thereof;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to nationalise the said company, if so, what are the concrete proposals; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government for the service security of more than thousand skilled employees of the said company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The workers have emphasised, *inter alia*, that M/s. Smith Stanistreet and Company Limited Calcutta, is an economically viable unit and should be nationalised forthwith.

(b) and (c). The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited who had examined the scope of rehabilitation and re-

orientation of Smith Stanistreet Company Limited, Calcutta have submitted their reports to the Government. These reports are under active consideration of the Government.

Definition of Dowry

151. **SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI**: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government propose to enact a legislation in order to have a clear and well defined definition covering all the aspects of dowry and if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD): Government are examining generally the question of amending the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, in the light of experience gained in its working, amendments made by State Governments and suggestions made by the Committee on the Status of Women and other. No decisions have yet been taken.

Oil and Natural Gas in Tripura

152 **SHRI DASARTHA DEB**. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the prospect of oil and natural gas in Tripura;

(b) when actual processing of oil and natural gas is likely to start in Tripura, and

(c) in how many places drilling works are in progress in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c). Presence of gas of commercial significance has been indicated in the first well drilled in Baramura structure of Tripura. In order to ascertain the extent of this gas horizon and also to carry out further exploration for deeper objects, drilling of 2 more wells has been commercial in this structure.