

associations of exporters etc., to run air cargo services on their own or on a consortium basis through purchase or leased freighter aircraft.

4. In the fleet acquisition programme of Air India in future, preference will be given to the augmentation of the freighter capacity.
5. Experience has shown that unless the rates are remunerative, cargo carriers would hardly have any incentive to operate cargo services from the country and to augment their cargo carrying capacity from the country. Government has therefore decided to allow IATA rates as the floor rates and leave it to the carriers to charge the actual rates according to the demand and supply situation. This will also obviate the need for Government giving approvals to cargo rates on a case to case basis. Government have also decided to abolish the mandatory rates which were applicable only in the case of Air India and which being lower than the IATA rates were causing heavy losses to Air India.
6. In order to remove the current backlog of cargo piled up at the airports, Air India has started operating additional 747 freighter flights to Europe/USA. Air India will also explore ways and means to supplement capacity into the USA through joint services with other international carriers.

(c) Air India continues to accept cargo from exporters. It has not closed its shutters.

[*Translation*]

Railway Line from Mahesh Khut/Mansi to Bihariganj

*475. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a new railway line from Mahesh Khut or Mansi to Bihariganj via Maya Beldor in Khagaria district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which it would be laid; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand for projects already approved.

Review of Industrial Licensing Policy

*480. DR. BANGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial licensing policy is being reviewed; and

(b) if so, when the review is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). The industrial licensing policy is presently being reviewed with a view to simplifying procedures and cutting delays.

Review will be completed expeditiously.