

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Yes.

(b) While converting the Poona-Miraj Metre Gauge line into broad gauge, a new alignment was adopted to bring the main Sangli town on the main line and a new broad gauge station has been built for the purpose. The new location for a broad gauge station was also inescapable due to the area in and around the existing metre gauge alignment and Sangli station being heavily built up. The decision to re-align the line between Miraj and Sangli and the new location of the Sangli station were approved by the Maharashtra State Government. It is, therefore, not possible to accept the demand at this stage.

Conversion of Miraj-Latur Line into Broad Gauge Line

17. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOT-KHINDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the latest position regarding the conversion of Miraj-Latur narrow gauge line on South Central Railway into Broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic surveys for the conversion of Miraj-Kurduvadi-Latur Narrow Gauge sections to Broad Gauge, and construction of a new Broad Gauge line from Latur to Latur Road have been carried out. The Survey Reports have been examined and it is found that the project is very unremunerative. The availability of resources do not permit this work to be taken up now.

Improvement of Workshop at Arakonam (Southern Railway)

18. SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for improvement and streamlining of the workshop at Arakonam on Southern Railway has been taken up; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Payment of Bonus to Railway Employees

19. SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of payment of bonus to the Railway employees is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider it during 1977-78?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b). As far as bonus issue is concerned, as stated by me in this House on 29th March, 1977, this issue has been complicated by the former Government. Since that has introduced a new Bonus Policy for the country, we will have to re-examine the entire issue in depth, before we take any concrete steps.

Rigging in Lok Sabha Election in West Bengal

20. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been alleged by the CPI(M) Leftist Front, Janata Party and the Congress for Democracy that the Congress Party in West Bengal restored to large-scale

rigging in certain constituencies in connection with the last Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) A telegram was received by the Election Commission on 18th March, 1977 from S/Shri Prafulla Chandra Sen, Jyoti Basu, Bijoy Singh Nahar, Makhan Paul and Ashok Ghosh alleging massive rigging in several Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal in the recent general election to the Lok Sabha, and demanding re-poll.

(b) The Election Commission had received reports from the Returning Officers of 8 Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal that the poll in 30 polling stations had been vitiated by violence and accordingly as provided in section 58(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Commission declared the poll at those polling stations to be void and directed a fresh poll to be taken in five polling stations on the 19th March, 1977 and in the remaining polling stations on the 20th March, 1977.

Rigging in Barrackpore, Katwa, Dum Dum and other Constituencies

21. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news published in leading newspapers in West Bengal on rigging in Barrackpore, Katwa, Dum Dum and other constituencies resorted to by the ruling party in West Bengal in the last Lok Sabha poll; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The Election Commission had received reports from the Returning Officers of 8 Parliamentary Constituencies in West Bengal that the poll in 30 polling stations had been vitiated by violence and accordingly as provided in section 58(2)(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission declared the poll at those polling stations to be void and directed a fresh poll to be taken in five polling stations on the 19th March, 1977 and in the remaining polling stations on the 20th March, 1977.

Provision of Funds for Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari Broad Gauge Line

22. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad features of proposals received from the General Manager Construction, Bangalore for provision of funds for the construction of Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari broad gauge line for the year 1976-77; and

(b) the amount sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) The Southern Railway proposed a minimum allotment of Rs. 3 crores for this project for 1976-77 for meeting the commitments made in the previous years.

(b) Rs. 3.35 crores have been finally allotted in 1976-77.

Victimisation of Employees during Emergency Period

23. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees belonging to his Ministry who have been (i) dismissed (ii) pre-maturely