

been completed. The survey revealed that the line will be 30 kms. long and will cost Rs. 3.77 crores. The line has not been found to attract sufficient traffic to justify its construction at present.

#### Paraffin Wax Unit at Haldia

3743. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometime back petrosil Limited, in which US-Gulf Oil Company has 40 per cent share holding has submitted any proposal to set up a Paraffin Wax Unit at Haldia; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government to that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the additional capacity for the manufacture of paraffin wax proposed in the Public Sector at Madras and Barauni Refineries, from the demand point of view, the proposal of M/s Petrosil Limited to set up another paraffin wax plant at Haldia was not justified. It was therefore rejected.

#### Prices of Chloramphenicol

3744. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the prices of Chloramphenicol have fallen down sharply in the open market due to large imports of L-Base which have already arrived in January and February, 1978 and are still continuing;

(b) if so, in light of the above have Government received representation from the industry to reduce price of

L-Base distributed by the canalising agency to combat the large scale imports arriving due to various letters of credit opened before 27-9-1977;

(c) whether Government are aware that some interested officials are delaying the reduction of price of L-Base distributed by the canalising agency so as to enable the parties who have imported L-Base against REP Licences to benefit from the situation; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Prices of Chloramphenicol in Bombay Market are reported to have declined from Rs. 570/580 per kg. in December, 1977 to Rs. 510/520/515 per kg. in February/March, 1978. It is learnt that 10.15 tonnes have come in at Bombay Port from 1-1-78 to 14-3-78, other than imports through C.P.C.

(b) Representations have been received that the selling price of L-Base to be released by CPC may be lowered.

(c) and (d). BICP, who were asked to submit a report on fair selling price of L-Base after conducting cost examination of conversion of L-Base into Chloramphenicol of two small scales units, have submitted their report recently. The report is under consideration and final decision will be taken shortly.

#### मांडला-धरमकंटक रेलवे लाइन

3745. श्री इयाबलाल चुर्से: क्या रेल मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के पिछड़े आदिवासी क्षेत्र मांडला से धरमकंटक पेंडा तक रेलवे लाइन बिछाने के लिये सर्वेक्षण कार्य शुरू किया है; और