

**Conversion of Sholapur-Gadag Line**

4847 **SHRI K. B. CHOUDHARI** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Sholapur-Gadag Railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge ; and

(b) if so, when the conversion job is going to be undertaken?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN)** : (a) and (b) No; in view of the severe constraint on the availability of resources, it will not be possible to undertake the conversion of Sholapur-Gadag line at present.

**Shortage of drugs for T.B. Treatment**

4848. **SHRI D. AMAT** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of drugs for the treatment of T.B. cases in the country ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons and what steps are being taken to remedy the situation ?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA)** : (a) and (b): The only anti-T.B. formulation whose shortages have been reported from different areas of the country, from time to time, is Streptomycin Injection. The main reason for the shortage of this drug is late arrival of imported material due to inadequate availability of bulk drug Streptomycin Sulphate in the international market.

Apart from arranging for the needed imports, the following steps were also taken to deal with the situation :—

(i) The State Drug Controllers/Associations of Drug Manufacturers were requested to ask the Streptomycin viallers to curtail their production of Streptomycine-Penicillin in order to increase

the availability of Streptomycin Injections. Major viallers were also separately requested to do so.

(ii) IDPL and HAL, both public sector enterprises, were requested to augment their production of bulk Streptomycin Sulphate.

GPC have since released adequate quantities of bulk Streptomycin Sulphate among various viallers who are lifting the material and the supply of Streptomycin vials is improving.

**Private Railway Companies**

4849. **SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name and number of private Railway companies operating in N.E. region with State-wise break-up of Kilometers, liabilities and payments made to and received from Government;

(b) how and by when Government propose to take over them ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN)** : (a) There are Two Light Railway Companies viz., the Chaparmukh-Silghat Light Railway Company and Katakhal-Lalabazar Light Railway Company which are privately owned but worked by the N.F. Railway in the State of Assam. The statement attached gives the details.

(b) and (c): In case of both the railways the Govt. have the right to exercise its option once every ten years to purchase the Railways. The last option to purchase fell on 31-3-78 for Chaparmukh-Silghat Light Railway Co. and on 31-3-74 for Katakhal-Lalabazar Light Railway Co. It was decided not to purchase these lines, because the purchase was not considered financially viable. The general policy of the Govt. in regard to purchase of privately owned railways has been to conserve resources for acquisition of new assets rather than to purchase old and worn-out ones.