

with a stoppage at Soro and some other stations on the extended run between Khurda Road and Howrah.

(b) No.

(c) The incidence of alarm chain pulling of 45 Up/46 Dn. Express at Soro is meagre, as during the two months of May and June, 1971, the alarm chain of these trains was pulled on a total of 14 occasions.

Overbridges at Railway Stations in Khurda Division (South Eastern Railways)

7545. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that there are still a number of Railway Stations in the Khurda Division of South Eastern Railway, which do not have overbridges ; and

(b) whether his Ministry has a proposal to construct over-bridges at all such Stations in the Fourth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a). Yes. Out of 62 stations, 32 do not have foot over bridges.

(b) At those stations where foot over-bridges do not exist, Railways provide the same as and when this facility becomes necessary depending upon the requirements of traffic and other considerations including the availability of funds. Accordingly, 7 more stations on the Khurda Division are proposed to be provided with foot-over-bridges in the Fourth Plan period.

Steps devised to avoid Train Accident due to Explosive

7546. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by his Ministry so far to devise any mechanism to detect explosives used by miscreant for blowing off trains so that the Driver can avoid any accident by stopping the train at a distance ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). No such device has been evolved so far nor is any such mechanism evolved by any Railways outside our country.

Broad Gauge Line from Cochin to Trivandrum

7547. SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered to convert the metre gauge line into broad gauge from Cochin to Trivandrum ;

(b) whether the work on this line has started ;

(c) if so, the amount likely to be spent on this conversion ; and

(d) the time by which the conversion of this line is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c). Engineering and Traffic Surveys for conversion of the Ernakulam (near Cochin)-Trivandrum Metre Gauge Section into Broad Gauge have been carried out and the reports are at present under examination of the Railway Board. A decision on this conversion will be taken shortly. The conversion is estimated to cost Rs. 13.60 crores (gross).

(d) Since a decision regarding this conversion is yet to be taken, it is not possible to indicate the date by which it is likely to be completed.

Sanction to Goa's Selaulim Irrigation Project

7548. SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI : Will the MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accorded technical and administrative sanction to Goa's Selaulim Irrigation Project ; and