

(b) if so, the time by which the gauge conversion is likely to be started; and

(c) the funds earmarked for conversion of above line during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The gauge conversion of this line is proposed to be taken as a part of the project of providing a third line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Action has been initiated for obtaining the requisite clearances required before including the work in the Railway Budget.

(c) The funds for this work will be allotted after the work is sanctioned.

Allotment of Plots

771. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding violation of norms laid down for allotment of Plots/Flats by DDA;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As and when representations/complaints are received, the same are forwarded to DDA for taking immediate necessary corrective measures. The allotment of plot is made by DDA in accordance with the DDA (Disposal of Developed Nazul Lands) Rules, 1981. Similarly, DDA allots flats according to the priority assigned to the individuals under different housing schemes and as per the norms and the terms and conditions envisaged in the brochure of the related self-financing schemes, by way of computerised draw held in the presence of judges invited from outside DDA.

Production in R.S.P.

772. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the production of steel in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the production expected by the end of 2000; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The production in Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) will increase with the completion of modernization and stabilization thereof.

(b) The original target for production of Saleable Steel by the RSP during the Ninth Five Year Plan period was 8.05 million tonnes. This target would undergo change depending upon the commissioning and stabilization of the modernization units and the market conditions.

(c) The Saleable Steel production expected by the end of 2000 is 1.55 million tonnes per annum.

(d) Some of the steps taken by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in this regard include optimum utilization of modernized units; improvement of quality of inputs like coal and other raw materials; and improving the marketability of products etc. On its part, the Department is closely monitoring the progress etc.

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga at Mungher

773. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :
SHRI RAJ BANSHI MAHTO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the necessary clearance for the construction of rail bridge over river Ganga at Mungher has been obtained by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction of the said bridge is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Detailed investigations and final location survey for the rail bridge on the river Ganga at Mungher have been taken up. The requisite clearances can only be processed after the location and costs are finalised which will be after the completion of the survey.

(b) and (c) Will be known after the survey is completed and the work is taken up.

Investment in Railway Sector

774. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment in the Railway Sector has been constantly declining which may be well short for further development;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to cover the deficit;

(c) whether the Railways propose the handing over marketing to private sector to improve freight performance and to reduce the costing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The budgetary support from the Central Government has been decreasing over the years and has come down from 75% of the total plan outlay in the Fifth Five Year Plan to 22% in the Eighth Five-year plan. Suitable steps have been taken to maintain investment by taking recourse to Market Borrowing besides Internal Generation. The increased market borrowings have, however, lead on an increase in the lease charges borne by the Railways. This has had an adverse affect on the Internal Resource Generation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Quadrupling of Mumbai-Ahmedabad Railway Tracks

775. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the double broad gauge line between Ahmedabad and Mumbai was laid in May 1960 taking into account the traffic at that time;

(b) whether during his visit two months ago he has announced to make it into 4 line in view of the heavy quantum of traffic on this route; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Link Roads

776. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to link every village with approach road; and

(b) if so, the State-wise number of villages which have so far been linked with approach road, particularly in Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOURA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Connecting of all categories of villages with approach roads is a State subject and funds for this purpose are provided by the State Governments in their Annual Plan. Moreover Planning Commission provides additional central assistance to State Governments under the Basic Minimum Services including construction of rural roads. The State-wise number of villages with population of 1000 and above which have been connected by link roads upto 1995-96 is given in the attached Statement.