

**Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur Line**

2873. SHRI VISHWESHWAR BHAGAT :  
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand to convert metre gauge line from Chandrapur-Gondia to Jabalpur into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether it is proposed to be included in Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey has not yet been completed.

(c) Decision will depend on results of survey and availability of resources in coming years.

[English]

**Leakage of Methane Gas**

2874. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the methane gas was blown out in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu on July 2, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of people affected;

(c) the facts thereof and the steps taken

to prevent such incidents; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to educate people living around these sites to save themselves from such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (d). There was uncontrolled flow of mud and natural gas containing Methane at well Kovikalappal-9 in District Thanjavur on 2nd July, 1991 which was brought under control the very next day. About 3000 villagers from nearby villages were temporarily evacuated as a precautionary measures.

[Translation]

**Transfer of Running Staff Headquarter From Idgah to Bayana (W.R.)**

2875. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to shift the headquarters of running staff (driver and guard) of Kota division on Western Railway from Idgah to Bayana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation about the difficulties likely to be faced by railway employees as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to change in operational requirements consequent to change of steam traction to electric traction in that area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In view of changing operational requirements of Indian Railways, transfer of some staff and machinery and plant cannot be avoided in the larger national interest and the imperative need to improve operational efficiency and productivity.

[English]

#### **Lease of Railway land to Housing Societies in Bombay**

2876. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra requested to the Union Government to lease railway land to the co-operative housing societies of slum dwellers residing along the railway lines in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions proposed; and

(c) when the matter is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have requested for leasing of the land at a nominal rate of 1% of the market value of Land. Railways have offered either to relinquish to the State Government the land beyond the safety zone and surplus to Railways' requirement at market rates or on exchange basis or to license this land at 6% of the market value.

(c) Further action in the matter lies with the State Government of Maharashtra.

#### **Purchase of Boeing-747-400 for Air India**

2877. SHRI RABI RAY:  
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to purchase four Boeing 747-400 for the Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the American Aircraft Company has agreed to extend the deadline for the third time to finalise the deal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The purchase of four Boeing 747-400 (passenger version) aircraft, from Boeing Commercial Aeroplane Company and the engines to be installed, at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1962.03 crores, including a foreign exchange component of US \$ 667.09 million, is under consideration. The definitive purchase agreement is required to be signed by the 15th of August, 1991 to maintain the offered delivery schedule.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Ujjain-Bhopal Line**

2878. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work in Ujjain-Bhopal section upto Makshi has been started; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed and commissioned?