

been sent for launching a petorochemical project in Barauni. But we have already informed the Bihar Government that one aromatic\* plant and one caprolactam plant have been sanctioned. We have asked the Bihar Government to take steps to implement these projects. Both the projects put together, we require nearly 600 and odd crores of rupees. And so far no effective step has been taken by the Bihar Government in this matter what to talk of the other project. So there is no use in sending the proposal to us. But the State Governments should know their own competence and they should perform. Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Member is, if he has got any influence on the Bihar Government, to impress upon the Bihar Government to take steps to see that these projects already sanctioned are taken up.

#### Conversion of Achalpur-Yavatmal and Pulgaon-Arvi Rail Lines

\*824. SHR UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the narrow-gauge line connecting Achalpur-Yavatmal and Pulgaon-Arvi;

(b) whether representations have been received to convert the above line into broad gauge line to promote the economic development of the region; and

(c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As it is a privately owned railway worked by Central Railway, it is difficult to consider its conversion before taking over its ownership. The next option for taking over would be available in 1996 as per Agreement

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Honkong is being transferred to China in 1997 but the talks are going on. When we are managing this line, why should it be difficult for us to plan for conversion of it? We do not want you start the work right now. But you can definitely tell us that you will take up the conversion so that you can start the work under some scheme. The length of this line is 225 Kms. So it is going to take a long time. So why do you not decide it right now?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is no proposal to disband it nor is there any proposal to convert it. I do not know what exactly the hon. Member wants me to do now.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I want to know why it should be difficult for the hon. Minister to give us an assurance that after 1996 the work will be taken up for conversion. On the other hand, your Home Ministry has given a statutory board for the backward areas of Marathwada, Konkan and Vidharbha. Under these circumstances, why do you not consider it and give us an assurance?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I said that there is no proposal to convert it. Then how can I give an assurance?

11.39 1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO  
 A SUPPLEMENTARY ON SQ. NO. 822  
 DATED 15.5.90

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): I made a slight mistake in my answer to the supplementary\*\* question put by Shri L.V. Singh. I said that aromatic project was cleared by my Ministry for Bihar. It is not aromatic—that has been rejected. It is polyester filament yarn project.

\* See column 16 also for correcting statement.

\*\* Please see column 15