

Conversion from M.G. To B.G.

* 352. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of conversion of Metre Gauge lines to Broad Gauge is as per schedule ; and

(b) if not, the reasons there for ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) and (b) Due to severe constraint on resources it has not been possible to progress all the on-going projects at a satisfactor pace. Priority has, therefore, been accorded to those projects which have made substantial progress, so as to derive the maximum benefits of the investments made, instead of thinly distributing the meagre resources on a large number of Projects.

SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : Sir, when Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Railway Minister, he laid the foundation—stone of this Bangalore-Mysore conversion project from metre gauge to broad gauge and he had promised to get it done within two years. Now, even after 5 years, it has not been done. Bangalore-Guntakal line has been taken up later.

I would like to know from the Minister why there is unnecessary delay in the completion of this project from Bangalore to Mysore which is only of 80-mile distance.

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Well, I do not know about the commitment and all that. What I get from the paper is that there is acute scarcity of resources and therefore a decision was taken in consultation with the Planning Commission to give priority on 7 identified projects. Now, what we are doing is, because of the constraint on resources, we have asked the Planning Commission to identify the project which we should take on priority basis. And according to the priority, they have identified 7 projects.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Which are those 7 projects ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting like this ?

SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : Sir, the Bangalore-Mysore work is pending for a long time. Now, Mysore has become very important because of the activities of trade, commerce, employment, tourism etc., and thousands of commuters are travelling in this route. Will the Railway Minister promise that he would see that the conversion of line from metre gauge to broad gauge from Bangalore to Mysore would be taken up early ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Sir, the following three projects out of 7 have been completed and opened to traffic :

1. Suratgarh-Bhatinda
2. Barabanki-Samastipur
3. Bangalore-Guntakal

Regarding this Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar project, Phase I has been completed and opened to traffic. Phase II is in progress. If you want me to read all this, I can read out.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is concerned with my constituency and the whole of Tamil Nadu. When we were participating in the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways yesterday, myself and the hon. Members from the Congress also were very much worried about the neglected situation of Tamil Nadu by this Government as far as the railway development is concerned. Even after 35 years of independence, we have got only one broad gauge line to Tamil Nadu in the year 1981. For that B.G. line, the total project cost was Rs. 71 crores. In 1981-82, we got only Rs. 2 crores. In 1982-83, the Department demanded Rs. 8 crores whereas they sanctioned only Rs 2.5 crores. In 1983-

84, as against Rs. 7.75 crores, they sanctioned only Rs 1.75 crores. That work is not at all progressing. The work has been closed. All the officials of the Department in Madras were pressing me to demand more funds from the Minister. I want to know whether they are going to sanction sufficient money for the work to progress as scheduled...

MR. SPEAKER : It is a question for the Planning Commission, not for him. He cannot do anything. You ask something which concerns him.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : The work on Dindigul Karur-Madurai-Tuticorin B. G. line is not at all progressing due to lack of funds. Therefore, I want to know whether he can direct the Government to sanction more funds for B. G. line. Yesterday also I demanded it in my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : It is your right to demand. But it is a question for the planning Commission. He cannot reply it.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : The Minister has power to sanction more funds. What for are we having Ministers ? What for are we having the Railway Minister and the Railway Ministry ?

MR. SPEAKER : You must know that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He has a good point. You cannot brush it aside.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : To satisfy the hon. Member, I may state that for the whole of the country we require Rs. 600 crores. Every year, the planning Commission is giving only Rs. 50 crores How are we in financial position ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Let the planning Minister resign.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि समस्ती-

पुर-दरभंगा लाइन कन्वर्शन का काम 1974 में शुरू हुआ था। उस वक्त रेल मंत्री स्वर्गीय ललित नारायण मिश्र थे। इस पर लाखों रुपया खर्च भी हो गया था। क्या यह सही है कि इसके कार्यकाल में उस काम को बंद कर दिया और वहाँ के पदाधिकारियों को वापिस बुला लिया गया। यदि यह सही है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय सदन को आश्वासन देंगे कि इस तरह की गलती आगे नहीं होगी और इस काम को कब तक पूरा कराने की कृपा करेंगे ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : The Samastipur-Darbhanga project is there But it is a very low priority for the planning Commission. I will not be able to give any commitment to the House.

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि बिहार की कितनी मीटर गेज लाइनों को ब्राड गेज करने की योजना है और कितनी योजनाओं को प्राथमिकता दी गई है ? मंत्री महोदय यह भी बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि क्या इन योजनाओं के लिए योजना आयोग की अनुशंसा है ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Sir, as I have explained to you the priorities have been identified by the planning Commission. I have no hand in this matter.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Sir, You are well aware that Rajasthan is a very backward State. Unfortunately, Jaipur is one capital which is not connected by broad gauge. Every State capital is connected by broad gauge except Jaipur. There have been announcement after announcement by various Railway Ministers in the past, particularly, on the eve of elections that they will be constructing broad gauge line from Delhi to Ahmedabad connecting Jaipur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the latest Position in this regard

despite all assurances given by various Railway Ministers in the past that it will be connected by broad gauge.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : We do not have any priority on this.

MR. SPEAKER : For that line, there is no priority. You can rest assured;

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD : A lot of publicity has already been given to the conversion of Dindigul-Tuticorin line into broad gauge and about the laying of a new broad gauge line between Kanur and Dindigul. I would like to know how far the work has progressed.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : The Bangalore-Guntakal line has already been open to traffic.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : How can it be open to traffic when the line is not yet laid? The Hon. Minister is talking about Kandla. The Hon. Member has asked about Karur Dindigul line.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The Hon. Minister is talking about Bangalore-Guntakal line?

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : The Hon. Member is asking about Karur-Dindigul line.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The Hon. Member who has put the question will ask for the clarification. Why are you shouting?

SHRI K. Mayathevar : When the Hon. Minister has not given proper reply, I have to ask for clarification.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Gentlemen, I will suggest a shouting match outside;

SARI JAGDISH TYTLER ; Now you understand,

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA : There should be no question of blaming the other Ministries. The Hon. Minister is blaming the planning Commission and the other Ministries. He should talk about his own Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. It is irrelevant. I do not agree with you.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The Hon. Member asked about Karur—Dindigul line. The Hon. Minister replied about Bangalore—Guntakal line. How can you allow this to go on?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Because of scarcity of resources, only 7 identified projects are undertaken. This project does not figure at all among those identified project. That is what I am saying.

MR. SPEAKER : That project is not there. That is what the Hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Again, the Hon. Minister is wrong.

MR. SPEAKER : You write to me. Don't be sorry.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : If the project is not there in the list, how will the work on it start?

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't argue. Please sit down. Please write to me. You can come under Direction 115.

U. N. Aid To Poor Nations

*353. †SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have seen the press reports which appeared in the Patriot dated 4 July, 1983 wherein an official of the United Nations has indicated that many of the world's poor nations particularly non-aligned countries are famins stricken and may