

- (ii) total annual net revenue and expenditure of each line for the financial years 1966-67 and 1967-68 (Actuals) and for 1968-69 (based on figures available upto December only) ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the States have opposed the closure of these branch lines :

(d) if so, their names as also of the branch lines which they want to remain undisturbed ; and

(e) Central Government's reaction to their opposition ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS  
(DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) to (e). No proposal for closure of uneconomic railway lines is at present under consideration.

### रेलवे यात्री यातायात

\*953. श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री :

श्री देवकी नन्दन पाटोविया :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे यात्री यातायात में प्रत्याशित वृद्धि नहीं हुई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) रेलवे यात्री यातायात में वृद्धि करने के लिये सरकार का क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) : (क) जी, हां। 1968-69 में यात्री यातायात में जो वृद्धि हुई है, वह बजट में लगाये गये अनुमान से कम रही है।

(ख) वित्त वर्ष 1968-69 के पहले चार महीनों में पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के मुका-

बले यात्री यातायात कम रहा। ऐसा जान पड़ता है कि बरसात कुछ पहले शुरू हो जाने, बाढ़ और लाइनों में ट्रट-फूट और कुछ हद तक कम दूरी वाला आयात रेल की बजाय सड़क के रास्ते होने के कारण यह गिरावट आयी है। अगस्त से यात्री यातायात में फिर वृद्धि के संकेत दिखाई पड़ रहे हैं।

(ग) सेवा के स्तर में सुधार करने के लिये रेल प्रशासन लगातार प्रयास कर रहे हैं। जिससे स्वभावतः रेलवे को अधिक यातायात पाने में सहायता मिलेगी। इस दिशा में जो उपाय किये गये हैं, उनमें से कुछ इस प्रकार हैं :—

(i) अतिरिक्त गाड़ियां चलाई गई हैं, वर्तमान गाड़ियों में अधिक डिब्बे लगाये गये हैं और उनका चालन क्षेत्र बढ़ाया गया है।

(ii) सीधे जाने वाले अतिरिक्त डिब्बे चलाये गये हैं।

(iii) गाड़ियों की यात्रा में लगने वाला समय कम किया गया है और बहुत तेज गाड़ियां चलाई गई हैं।

(iv) अधिक शयन-यानों और वातानुकूल चेअर कारों की व्यवस्था की गई है।

### Broad gauge line from Madras to Tuticorin Harbour

\*954. DR. M. SANTOSHAM :  
SHRI KIRUTTINAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when the proposed broad gauge line from Madras to Tuticorin Harbour via Erode and Dindigul Stations is likely to be completed ; and

(b) whether the line is proposed to be extended from Tuticorin Harbour to Cochin Harbour also ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) Preliminary engineering and traffic surveys for a new B.G. line from Karur to Dindigul and onwards to Madurai and for the conversion of the M. G. line from Madurai to Tuticorin including the Maniyachi—Tirunelveli section) are in progress based on the results of the surveys, further consideration to the project will be given. If this proposal materialises, it would provide a B. G. connection between Madurai and Tuticorin Ports.

(b) No such direct extension for a B. G. line from Tuticorin to Cochin Harbour is at present under consideration. Tuticorin and Cochin are already connected by a M. G. line *via* Maniyachi-Tirunelveli-Quilon. There is no proposal at present under consideration to convert this section into B. G. Re-assessment of the earlier survey reports of the Tirunelveli-Nagercoil-Cape Comorin-Trivandrum line and surveys for the conversion of the Trivandrum-Quilon-Ernakulam M. G. section into B. G. are being undertaken during the current year (1969-70). If these proposals materialise, Tuticorin and Cochin would be connected *via* Trivandrum, as well.

#### Shortage of Tyres and Tubes

- \*955. DR. KARNI SINGH :  
 SHRI N. K. SANGHI :  
 SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :  
 SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :  
 SHRI K. HALDAR :  
 SHRI JAGESHWAR YADAV :  
 SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of all kinds of tyres and tubes in the country is far below the normal requirements resulting in acute shortage of this commodity ;

(b) whether it is due to the fact that the production of rubber in the country has been extremely slow ;

(c) if so, whether Government have investigated the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to accelerate rubber production by planters to have rubber import and consequently foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Excepting in respect of certain categories of scooters, tractor and truck tyres, the indigenous production of tyres and tubes is sufficient to take care of the demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have been constantly reviewing the position of Tyre Industry and steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability of all categories of tyres and tubes. The present shortages were to some extent, due to sudden spurt in demand and loss of production owing to strike in one of the major Tyre Manufacturing Units during 1967-68.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in library. See No. LT-641/69*]

#### Inclusion of Sambavan Sambavar and Samban in Scheduled Castes List

- \*956. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :  
 SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :  
 SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPANAN :

Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation from the Kerala Government has been received requesting to include the Sambavan, Sambavar, Samban in the list of Scheduled Castes ;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the request ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?