

tion of unholy alliance between Pakistan and China and, if so, what is their reaction?

Shri Mohiuddin: We have received reports. For instances, the United States are reported to have stated that this will be a breach of the free countries' solidarity.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We could not follow it.

Shri Mohiuddin: Breach of the solidarity of the free countries.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What about UK and USSR?

Shri Mohiuddin: We have no information.

Conversion of Narrow Gauge Lines

*591. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 475 on the 10th August, 1962 and state:

(a) the progress since made regarding the extension or conversion of narrow gauge lines to metre gauge or broad gauge lines; and

(b) when the final position will be clear on the subject?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The Third Five Year Plan does not contemplate conversion of any of the N.G. lines to wider gauge. The question of retention of Government-owned narrow gauge lines as narrow gauge or their conversion into wider gauge or their abolition is still under consideration of the Board and a decision is yet to be taken.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know if any survey has been undertaken of the narrow gauge lines and, if so, the result thereof?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No survey as such has been undertaken. But we have taken a policy decision that the narrow gauge lines, where they are serving a useful purpose, may be allowed to continue. Eventually, they will either be converted into broad-gauge lines or abolished altogether.

Shri Hem Raj: How many lines are working at a loss and how many are earning profits?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Almost all of them are working at a loss.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: May I know how many narrow gauge lines have been constructed and how many miles have been converted during the last two years?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The total mileage of narrow gauge lines is 3,130 miles, of which 2,596 miles is Government-owned and 534 miles privately-owned. During the Third Plan, there are no plans for conversion of narrow gauge to broad gauge.

डा० गोविन्द बास : क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि गोंदिया और जबलपुर के बीच जो छोटी लाइन है और जिसके बारे में कई बार कहा गया है और सरकार की ओर से आश्वासन भी दिया गया है कि उसको चौड़ी लाइन में बदलने का विचार किया जा रहा है, उसके सम्बन्ध में भी कोई विचार किया जा रहा है या उसको खत्म कर दिया गया है ?

श्री शहनवाज़ खाँ : मैंने नहीं कहा है कि विचार सब खत्म कर दिया गया है। लेकिन तीसरी योजना में उनको कनवर्ट करने का कोई विचार नहीं है। कुछ लाइनें हैं ३२ के करीब जो कि अभी विचाराधीन हैं।

Famine Affected Areas

*592. { **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:**
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Kachhavaia:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Karni Singhji: