

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:

Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri P. L. Barupal:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Ratan Lal:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat are affected by severe famine;

(b) whether there is a large exodus of cattle and men to other parts of the country due to scarcity of fodder and food-grains; and

(c) the assistance, if any, being given by the Union Government to alleviate the suffering of the people and the cattle?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). A Statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Owing to failure of rains during major part of the month of July 1963, some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat States are affected by scarcity conditions. Due to shortage of fodder in those parts there has been inter-district movement of cattle. But there has been no movement of cattle outside the State. There has also been no shortage of foodgrains in any of these States, nor has there been any exodus of people.

For purchasing fodder and cattle-feed, the Central Council of Gosamvardhana has sanctioned Rs. 1 lakh and the Indian People's Famine Trust Rs. 25,000 to the Rajasthan Government. Arrangement has also been made for supply of fodder to the State Government from the neighbouring States. At the instance of the Central Government, the Government of Punjab have released about 8,000 cusecs of water from the Bhakra main Branch to Rajasthan canal during the period from 30th July to 14th August, 1963. Demand of the State Govern-

ment for the supply of a thousand bags of imported wheat for distribution in the scarcity areas has been met in full.

To alleviate suffering in Gujarat State, an amount of Rs. 30,000 has been sanctioned from the Central Council of Gosamvardhana. The Central Government offered help by way of securing fodder from the other States. Response from other States approached by the Gujarat Government is stated to be good.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Apart from these measures, may I know whether Government is considering the question of undertaking some permanent measures to eradicate famine from these areas?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The permanent measures are provision of irrigation facilities, setting up of fodder banks etc. All these measures are being undertaken.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the exodus of not only men but also cattle from Rajasthan and Gujarat has considerably affected the economy of those States and, if so, what arrangements have been made by Government for providing fodder and other facilities to the cattle?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There has been no exodus outside the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat as such. It has been only inter-district movement. With regard to Rajasthan, in answer to a short notice question I gave all the information at the disposal of the Government. With regard to Gujarat also, adequate measures are being taken.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether Government is in a position to tell us that as a measure of famine relief they would undertake the construction of defence roads on a priority basis?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Last time also I said that it was for the Defence

Ministry to see to this but in fact these border roads are given priority.

Shri Ranga: Have Government constituted the Natural Calamities Insurance Fund for these two States and, if so, have the Government been able to draw upon it in order to feed the two local governments in these crises?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have stated the other day that there is a pattern of financial assistance to States affected by natural calamities. Each State Government is enjoined to provide a particular amount for famine relief and relief for other natural calamities. As far as the Central Government is concerned, for any outlay above Rs. 1 crore, a particular pattern of assistance is laid down and any State which has to incur such an expenditure may get assistance from the Central Government.

श्री ५० ला० बरूपाल : अनावृष्टि के कारण जो अकाल राजस्थान आदि इलाकों में पड़ता है भविष्य में उस को रोकने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है और अकाल के कारण जिन गांवों में बेकारी और भूख-मरी पैदा हो गई है उस को रोकने के लिये सरकार ने क्या योजना बनाई है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In regard to Rajasthan, I gave all details in answer to a short notice question.

Mr. Speaker: Calling-attention Notice. Shri Sharma.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshan-gabad): On a point of clarification, Sir. We could not catch the tail-end of the reply of the hon. Deputy Minister to my supplementary question (No. 597). He said, "solidarity of something". Solidarity of what?

Mr. Speaker: Probably it will be better to consult the records. I also could not follow. I agree with him.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I could see from your expression. He said "free countries" or something.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sharma.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Circular Railway in Calcutta

*584. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri P. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the scheme for Circular Railway in Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether any discussion has taken place in regard to the implementation of the scheme with the Government of West Bengal;

(c) whether financial implications were also discussed; and

(d) if so, how this scheme will be financed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No decision has been taken in this matter.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Cooperative Societies

*585. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether an elaborate scheme has been drawn up for organisation, revitalisation and rehabilitation of cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.