

(a) whether the Government propose to take up gauge conversion work between Bangarpet-Kolar in the Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred on this work; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The work is already in progress.

(c) Rs. 12 crores.

(d) By 31.12.96.

#### **Bench of High Court**

773. DR. K.D. JESWANI :  
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :  
SHRI HARI BHAI PATEL :  
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :  
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for setting up of division benches of High Court in the country;

(b) whether the Union Government have received proposals from State Governments for setting up of benches of High Courts in their respective States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the benches of High Courts recommended by the Law Commission are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The Government have not fixed any norms for establishing benches of High Courts in the country. However, in its report, submitted to the Government on 30.4.1985, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of setting up of High Court Benches. The report of the Commission was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

(b) to (d). The Law Commission in their Fourth Report (1956) and Fourteenth Report (1958) had opposed the idea of creation of Benches of the High Courts in the country. However, the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended establishment of benches of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts at Agra, Raipur and Madurai respectively. Specific recommendations of the Commission were referred to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in October, 1986 for their views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. No specific, complete proposal has been received for establishing a Bench of any High Court from any State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court, in the light of specific or general recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission. As such, it is not possible to indicate the time by which the Benches of High Courts will be established in the country.

#### **Cantonment Board**

774. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of military stations which do not fall within the municipal limits;

(b) the number of military stations where cantonment boards are functioning;

(c) whether democratic set up is being considered in respect of the remaining stations; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced at the remaining stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Cantonment Boards are functioning in 62 stations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.