

[*English*]

Conversion of Railway Line from Alipurduar Jn. to New Alipurduar

9068. SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the narrow gauge railway line from Alipurduar Jn. to New Alipurduar into broad-gauge in view of difficulties being faced by the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There is no narrow gauge line existing from Alipurduar Jn. To New Alipurduar.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

New Railway Lines in West Bengal

9069. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct new railway lines in West Bengal to connect main cities including Balurghat of West Dinajpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Eklakhi-Balurghat new BG line was approved in 1983-84. The present day cost of the project would be around Rs. 60 crores. An amount of Rs.2.97 crores has so far been spent on the project on earth work between Eklakhi

and Gazole. Due to constraint of resources only token funds could be provided for this project since 87-88. Allotment of adequate funds for this project would depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Conversion Shahajahanpur-Pilibhit Tanakpur Railway line

9070. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Shahajahanpur Pilibhit-Tanakpur metre-gauge railway line into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Railways have launched an Action Plan for conversion of selected M.G. lines to B.G. to move towards uniguage. Lines included in the 1st phase are based on operating/strategic priorities. This line will be considered alongwith remaining lines when lines to be converted in the 2nd phase are decided.

[*English*]

Mining Activities in Aravari Hills

9071. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representations from the Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan