

Ahmadpur-Katwa and Burdwan-Katwa Road Lines

603. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the narrow gauge railway lines worked by M/s. Mcleod & Co. Ltd. from Ahmadpur to Katwa and Burdwan to Katwa are to be closed soon; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert these lines into broad gauge in view of the heavy traffic they carry?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) The Ministry of Railways are not aware of any proposal for the closure of these light Railways.

(b) Does not arise.

Small Scale Industries

604. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in the small scale industries during the Second Five Year Plan and in the first two years of the Third Plan on whole-time and part-time basis separately;

(b) the contribution of small enterprises to national income during the first and second Five Year Plans;

(c) the outlays planned for the development of small industries in the fourth plan; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure stability of existing small industrial units and to coordinate and screen policies of other departments affecting small units?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) No decisions have yet been taken on outlays for the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(d) The Central Small Industries Organisation and the State Directories of Industries help small scale units in various directions. Co-ordination is maintained with the Central Licensing Committee in order to ensure that in fields where sufficient production in the small scale sector has already been well developed, new capacities are not created in the large scale sector by fresh licensing. The supply of scarce raw materials to meet the increasing requirements of small scale units, however, presents a problem which is being sought to be met to the greatest extent possible within the foreign exchange available.

Other facilities extended to small scale units include:—

Supply of machinery by the National Small Industries Corporation on hire-purchase basis.

Credit facilities under the State Aid to Industries Act, State Bank Scheme, State Finance Corporations and the Credit Guarantee Scheme of the Reserve Bank of India.

Assistance in obtaining a fair share of Government contracts.

फतुहा-इसलामपुर रेलवे लाइन

605. श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद: क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान फतुहा-इसलामपुर रेलवे लाइन की घोर अव्यवस्था की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी व्यवस्था में सुधार करने के लिये अभी तक क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उस रेलवे लाइन को सीधे अपनी देख-रेख में ले लेने के प्रश्न पर विचार किया है?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाम नाथ): (क) जी नहीं।