

(b) whether Government of Karnataka has requested his Ministry to take up this conversion work; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Survey for the conversion of the MG section Miraj-Hubli-Hospet has been completed and the report is under consideration. Conversion of the line from Guntakal to Bangalore is already in progress. There is however no proposal for conversion of the M.G. line from Hubli to Bangalore via Arsekere.

(b) Representation was received from the State Government for conversion of this line.

(c) Due to the existing difficult financial position, it will not be possible to consider the conversion at present.

Railway crossings in Karnataka State

2054. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned rail-crossing in Karnataka State;

(b) the number of accidents occurred at those crossings during 1975;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce such unmanned level crossings; and

(d) if so, the amount sanctioned for the purpose for 1976-77?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) There are one thousand one hundred and sixteen 'C' class unmanned level crossings in Karnataka State.

(b) One.

(c) The unmanned level crossings, where both road and rail traffic is heavy or visibility is restricted and

which are prone to accidents are taken up for conversion into manned level crossings on the basis of periodical traffic census, on a programmed basis.

(d) A minimum of Rs. 62 thousand (approx.) has been earmarked for this purpose.

Conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad line into Broad Gauge

2055. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to convert the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line into broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard and the time by which Delhi-Rewari section is proposed to be converted into a broad gauge line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Engineering and traffic surveys have been carried out for the conversion of Delhi-Rewari-Ahmedabad MG section into BG and survey reports are under examination. It has been revealed by the survey reports that the project of length 925 Kms, will cost Rs. 108 crores. A decision on this gauge conversion scheme will be taken after the examination of the survey reports is completed and subject to availability of adequate funds.

Committee on Price Policy for Fertilizer

2056. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:**

SHRI B. S. BHURA:

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:

SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to frame pricing policy for fertilizers;

(b) if so, facts thereof; and

(c) time by which committee is expected to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). Government have set up a Committee on 8th January, 1976, known as the Fertilizer Prices Committee, to study the present basis for pricing of fertilizers and recommend a pricing policy that would ensure a fair return on investment on a sustained basis. The Committee has been asked to submit its report to the Government within a period of six months from the date of its constitution.

Import of fertilizer

2057. **SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT:**

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

Will the Minister of **CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state how much fertilizer was produced indigenously and how much was imported during 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76 and from which countries?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10635/76].

Amount sanctioned for Railway Lines in backward areas during 5th Plan period

2059. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for the new Railway lines for development of backward areas during the Fifth Five Year Plan period;

SEE LS-3.

(b) the amount spent so far on these projects;

(c) the ratio of the allotment of funds for the rural areas to that of the urban areas during the Fifth Five Year Plan for the construction of new railway lines; and

(d) whether an attempt would be made to improve the allotment for backward areas so as to ensure rural development and remove the imbalance in favour of urban areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). No specific provision has been made in the Fifth Five Year Plan for construction of new railway lines in backward areas. However, a provision of a sum of Rs. 100 crores for construction of new lines including railway lines for development of backward areas, has been made during the Fifth Five Year Plan, out of which a sum of about Rs. 34 crores has been spent so far. Priorities for the construction of new railway lines are determined on the basis of the traffic necessities and the need for over-all development of the country. Attempts are always made to ensure development of backward and rural areas within the available resources.

रतलाम डिबीजन में फर्लिंग स्टेशन बनाया जाना

2059. श्री भागीरथ शंकर : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रतलाम रेलवे डिबीजन में नए फर्लिंग स्टेशन बनाने के लिए कितने मामलों सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ; और

(ख) निकट भविष्य में ऐसे कितने मामलों पर निर्णय लिये जाने की आशा है ?

रेल संसद में जब मंत्री (श्री बुटा सिंह) : (क) कोई नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।