

and one tea stall contract at Vikhroli station of Central Railway were allotted under the direct orders of the former Minister of Railways. Contracts of two tea stalls at Andheri and one at Grant Road stations of Western Railway were allotted with the approval of former Minister of Railways after taking into consideration the report of Western Railway.

(b) Three persons belonging to Uttar Pradesh were given contracts on Central and Western Railways. The Government is not aware whether these persons were personal men of the former Railway Minister.

New Railway Lines Conversion to Broad Gauge Lines in Western Region

2599. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new proposal has been made for laying of new railway line or converting metre gauge line into broad gauge line in Western Region during the next five years; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). The following schemes in the Western Region (Gujarat and Maharashtra) are in hand:—

(1) Conversion of Viramgam-Okha/Porbandar metre gauge line to broad gauge.

(2) New line from Diva to Bassein.

(3) New line from Wani to Chanaka.

(4) Gauge conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Purli-Baijnath metre gauge line to broad gauge.

Gauge conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line to broad gauge

has been included in the budget for 1977-78.

Surveys for the following projects have been carried out during the recent years or are in hand. No decision about their construction has been taken so far.

(b) Construction of Ratlam-Banswada broad gauge line.

(b) Construction of Bhavnagar-Tarapore broad gauge line.

(c) Construction of Apta-Mangalore broad gauge line.

(d) Construction of Wardha-Katol broad gauge line.

(e) Conversion of Nadiad-Kapadvanj narrow gauge line to broad gauge and its extension to Modasa.

(f) Conversion of Miraj-Kurduwadi-Lature narrow gauge line to broad gauge and its extension to Latur Road.

Proposals for the 6th Five Year Plan have not been finalised so far.

Reinstatement of Retrenched Workers of P.W.I. Section Jalpaiguri (Northeast Frontier Railway)

2600. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA JOARDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the North East Frontier Railway authorities have retrenched 42 casual workers of P.W.I. section, Jalpaiguri when the railways are following a policy of undoing the anti-labour actions of the previous Congress Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to reinstate them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). 42 casual labourers working under the P.W.I. Jalpaiguri were dis-