

Survey for new Railway Lines in Backward Areas

338. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which new railway lines Government contemplate to construct in the backward areas of the country; and

(b) how many surveys for new lines have been made previously in Orissa to develop the backward areas and which are those?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) The proposals for taking up new railway lines in backward areas during the coming years have not yet been finalised. During the current financial year (1977-78) construction of two new railway lines viz., Mirchadhuri to Jayant and Bhadrachalam to Managuru have been included in the budget.

(b) The following surveys were made in Orissa during the last five/six years:

- (1) Talcher-Bimlagarh B. G. link.
- (2) Rupsa-Talband. Conversion from NG to BG.
- (3) Jakhapura-Banspani.

Two more surveys for construction of new railway lines have been included in the budget for 1977-78.

- (1) Koraput to Salur/Parbatipuram.
- (2) Talcher to Sambalpur/Jharsuguda.

Use of Insecticides and Pesticides Menace to Health

339. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a school of thought is growing in several advanced, progressive countries which looks upon

insecticides and pesticides much used in agriculture as an insidious menace to the health of mankind;

(b) whether Government agree with that view; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be adopted by Government to counter the menace?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) In some advanced countries group of pesticides chlorinated hydrocarbon is considered as potential carcinogens due to their persistence in the environment and biomagnification through the food chain. However, WHO and FAO have unequivocally supported the judicious use of such pesticides both in agriculture and public health. WHO regards DDT to be irreplaceable in malaria control programme particularly in the developing countries.

(b) and (c). Government are fully alive to the associated hazards of insecticides and pesticides and have therefore, enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968, under which all pesticides to be used in the country are required to be registered with the Registration Committee of the Central Insecticides Board, which critically examines the toxicity and bioefficacy of a pesticide before giving approval for its use in the country.

Conversion of Bikaner-Bhatinda Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge Line

340. CHAUDHARI HARI RAM MAKKASAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to convert metre gauge line from Bikaner to Bhatinda into broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the target date for conversion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) and (b). Conversion of Bhatinda-Hanumangarh-Suratgarh portion of Bhatinda-Bikaner metre gauge section into broad gauge is already in progress and is expected to be completed in 1978. There is no such proposal to convert Suratgarh-Bikaner portion from metre gauge to broad gauge under consideration at present.

Employees required for Talcher Fertilizer Factory

341. SHRI PABIRA MOHAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees required for the Talcher Fertilizer Factory, class and category-wise; and

(b) the number that is employed upto-date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). The number of employees required for Talcher Fertilizer Factory was assessed in 1973. These requirements are being reviewed by the F.C.I. The present sanctioned strength and the number of employees as on 31st March, 1977 are as under:

Category of post	Sanctioned strength	No. of employees in position as on 31-3-77
Class I	200	155
Class II	38	35
Class III	788	595
Class IV	289	184
TOTAL	1315	969

Companies which made Payments for Advertisements in Souvenir for Congress Party

342. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of **LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of companies registered under the Companies Act have paid lot of money for advertisements in the Souvenir of All India Congress Party before the General Elections of 1977;

(b) if so, the number of such companies and the amount of money involved;

(c) how many companies out of them have actually got their advertisements printed in the Souvenir;

(d) whether all these companies received the receipts of the amount paid; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDEL): (a) and (b). The particulars are being collected.

(c) to (e). These particulars would have to be collected.

Laws Passed during Emergency

343. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of **LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) how many laws were passed by Central Government during the period of internal emergency;

(b) how many laws out of all the laws passed during emergency are contemplated to be amended or repealed by Government; and

(c) when are they expected to be amended or repealed?