

settlement of claims from Orissa region on this account.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Narrow Gauge Rail Line into Broad gauge in Orissa

4972. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of narrow gauge rail lines functioning in Orissa ;
- (b) whether any survey has been carried out to find out the feasibility for conversion of these lines into broad gauge system ;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof ;
- (d) what steps are being taken to convert these lines ; and
- (e) whether there is a great demand that till the conversion is done the present system should be strengthened to increase the speed, efficiency and utility of the existing system so as to benefit the people in the predominantly tribal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Two.

(b) to (d) A reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey for the gauge conversion of the Rupsa-Bangriposi N.G. line into B.G. was carried out in 1981. As per the Survey report the project is not financially viable. No survey has been carried out in the recent past for gauge conversion of the Naupada-Gunupur N.G. line to B.G. In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, these proposals will have to wait for consideration till the resources position improves.

(e) The track and bridges on these lines are being maintained satisfactorily. There is a proposal to replace the existing old track on part of Rupsa-Bangriposi section having speed restriction, in 1986-87 and subsequent years depending upon availability of funds so that speed could be raised.

Coolies in Railways

4973. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of coolies in the Railways, zone-wise ;
- (b) the details of their number from 1982 to 1984 year-wise, zone-wise ;
- (c) what are the prescribed charges of hiring a coolie at the station ;
- (d) how many times have the charges been raised during the last three years ;
- (e) whether Government propose to raise charges of the coolies in the future ;
- (f) if so, the details thereof ;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor ; and
- (h) what other facilities given to the coolies by the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Amenities at Patna Junction

4974. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether railway passengers have to face great difficulties in moving from one platform to another and in standing in queue for many hours for purchasing tickets as the over bridges on Patna junction on Eastern Railway are narrow and there is shortage of booking counters ;
- (b) whether it is a fact that passengers have to remain thirsty as there is no arrangement for drinking water near reservation counter and general booking offices ; and
- (c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove these grievances and the time by which it is likely to be taken ?