

Asian Development Bank's Assistance for Setting up Gopalpur Port in Orissa

639. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to extend financial assistance for the setting up of an all weather Gopalpur Port in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the proposal has been cleared by the Central Water Power Research Station, Pune?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga Railway Line

640. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga narrow gauge line into broad-gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga MG section (37 km long) to BG was approved in 1974-75 at a cost of Rs. 4.75 crores. Recently, a fresh survey was conducted for a parallel BG line, instead of conversion and the cost thereof was estimated at Rs. 26 crores. The project was not found financially viable and, as such, it could not be taken up.

The decision whether it could be taken up during the 8th Plan, will depend on the availability of Plan resources.

Investment for Railways in Eighth Plan

641. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment in the 8th Plan demanded by the Railways; and

(b) what is the response of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Railway Programmes for VIII Plan, set up by the Planning Commission is understood to have recommended an investment of about Rs. 41,600 crores to the Planning Commission for various Railway Programmes. The Ministry of Railways are not aware of the response of the Planning Commission.

Outlay for S.C.R. during Eighth Plan

642. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be utilised by Railways in South Central Zone during Eighth Plan;

(b) whether the funds proposed to be allocated for South Central Zone are adequate; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to provide sufficient funds for this Zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The VIII