

### Gauge Conversion

2689. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred question No. 252 on March 14, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the Government have received survey report for conversion of Mansi-Saharsha-Forbesganj Metre-gauge railway line into Board-Gauge line in North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when it is expected to be received ; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred on this work and by when it is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By 31.3.96.

(d) will be known once the survey report is received.

### Construction of Road and Rail Bridges

2690. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry has decided to allocate an amount of Rs. 25 crores for the construction of Rail and Road Bridges on Gandak River to link Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the amount provided by his Ministry so far; and

(c) the time by which the entire amount is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). The cost of the work is Rs. 164.09 crores of which Railways' share was Rs. 65.32 crores. Against this, an amount of Rs. 86.50 crores has already been provided by this Ministry. This is already in excess of the

Railway's share, to be adjusted as soon as due amounts are received from the co-sharers and was provided to expedite the work on this important project.

[English]

### Granite Mining

2691. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have periodical review over the Granite Mining Industry in terms of mine safety and ecological factor ;

(b) the details of Granite Mining Industries especially in Tamil Nadu which were inspected by the Union Government during the last three years ; and

(c) the action taken by Government to protect the ecological factor in the Granite Mining Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b). The Union Government through the Ministry of Labour, conducts periodic inspection of mines, including those in Tamil Nadu to check mine safety aspects including occupational health. The ecological aspects of granite mining are reviewed by the State Governments.

(c) Ministry of Mines have informed that Granite, being a minor mineral, steps have been initiated with the State Government to follow uniform guidelines conducive to scientific mining in the interest of mineral conservation and ecological protection. Further, it is mandatory that diversion of forest areas, if any coming under the leases has to be done in consonance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

### Tribals of West Godavari District

2692. DR. R. MALLU :

SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding harassment and evacuation of tribals from forest area in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;