

industrial accidents in the country during 1979;

(b) the industry-wise and State-wise details; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen industrial safety thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK):
(a) and (b). Statistics relating to industrial accidents and industry-wise details thereof for the year 1979 are expected to be received from the State Governments in the Labour Bureau only from August, 1980.

(c) The following steps have been taken to reduce industrial accidents:

(i) Amendment of the Factories Act, 1948 in 1976 to provide for better safety at work. One of the important amendments is for appointment of Safety Officers in factories employing 1000 or more workers and in factories having hazardous processes. Another amendment relates to expeditious enquiries into all cases of accidents resulting in death.

(ii) Conducting regular training programmes for inspectors of factories, managements and workers in the areas of safety and health.

(iii) Conducting research and promoting training, advisory and consultancy activities on different aspects of safety, health and welfare of workers through the Labour Institutes, Factories Inspectorates and other promotional agencies.

Madras-Tirunelveli Railway Line

1932. **SHRI B. BALANANDAN:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the growing demand to convert the 700 kilometre Madras-Madurai-Tirunelveli

Railway line from metre gauge into broad gauge;

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not considering this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):
(a) Representations have been received in regard to the conversion of MG line from Madras to Tirunelveli.

(b) Re-appraisal of the earlier survey for the construction of BG line from Karur to Dindigul, and conversion of MG from Dindigul to Tirunelveli/Tuticorin has been carried out and the report is under examination. There is no proposal under consideration for the conversion of the MG line between Madras and Tiruchirapalli and Dindigul.

(c) Does not arise.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link

1933. **DR. KARAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether extension of the rail link from Jammu to the Northern Army command Headquarters in Udhampur is being surveyed; and

(b) if so, when this vital rail link will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):
(a) and (b) A final location (engineering) survey for construction of Jammu-Udhampur rail link is well in progress and is likely to be completed by end of May, 1980. Further consideration to this project will be given after the survey report is received and examined from all angles, subject to availability of resources and clearance of Planning Commission. It is therefore, too early to say as to when the construction will be taken up and completed.