

- (v) The Paper and Paper Board industry has been extended the facility of broad-banding;
- (vi) The Paper and Paper Board Industry, based on agricultural residue, has been brought under the scheme of Minimum Economic Capacity, which has been fixed at 33,000 TPA;
- (vii) The non-MRTP/non-FERA companies have been exempted from obtaining industrial licence, provided the investment in the project is upto Rs. 50 crore if the unit is located in a Centrally declared backward area, or upto Rs. 15 crore if the unit is located in non-backward area, subject to fulfilment of certain standard conditions;
- (viii) Paper machinery has been included under the Technology Upgradation Scheme.

#### **B.G. Rail Link on Guwahati-Dibrugarh Section**

1155. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Nagaland have demanded for Broad Gauge line on Guwahati-Lumding-Dimapur-Tinsukhia-Dibrugarh section;

(b) whether Railway Reforms Committee had also recommended extension of parallel broad gauge line from Guwahati-Lumding-Dimapur-Tinsukhia to Dibrugarh for strategic considerations;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to sanction this project and when it is likely to be taken up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal at present due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand.

#### **Exploration for Oil and Gas in Midnapur, West Bengal**

1156. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are expecting any oil or gas in Midnapur district, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the progress made in the exploration works there;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission is making some construction in this area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Exploratory activity, including drilling in the area is in progress. It is too early to comment on oil/gas possibility.

(b) Seismic data has been acquired in and around Sabang area and based on the study of this data, an exploratory location Chandkuri-1 has been taken up for drilling. Presently the well has reached a depth of 3345 meters.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, in the past, work related to the foundation for rig, and approach road for the drill site Chandkuri-