

(a) whether there is a proposal for the conversion of Sivan Thave-Chhapra (metre-gauge) North-Eastern Railway line into broad-gauge;

(b) whether it is also proposed to start an additional fast train on this route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). There is no such proposals at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail Link to Hilly Areas of Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh

199. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to link inaccessible hilly areas of Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh with railway lines;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). After conducting surveys, construction of the following new lines has been approved to link inaccessible hilly areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh:-

State	Line	Length (in km)	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)
Orissa	1. Talcher-Sambalpur	172	100.00
	2. Koraput-Rayagada	164	322.00
Madhya Pradesh	1. Guna-Etawah	348	248.00
	2. Satna-Rewa	50	30.00
	3. Godhra-Indore & Dewas Maksi	316	297.14

[English]

Oil Crisis

200. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any study to meet oil crisis in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the study under-

taken in this regard;

(c) whether the demand of oil is increasing rapidly and Government are facing great difficulties in meeting the demand; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). The demand for oil has been increasing rapidly in the last few