

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) The freight earned during the years 1982—85 from this traffic was as under:—

Year	Timber (Rs. in lakhs)	Plywood (Rs. in lakhs)
1882-83	344	41
1983-84	422	93
1984-85	341	153

(c) Yes, Sir, to some extent.

(d) The traffic moving in piecemeal was partly diverted on account of encouraging movement in train loads. All restrictions imposed were unavoidable.

(e) In order to attract tea and jute traffic, station to station rates have been quoted. To attract additional export tea traffic an Inland Container Depot has also been set up at Amingaon (Guwahati).

Conversion of New Bongaigaon Gauhati Rail Line

3700. SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have already spent approximately Rs. 50 crores for conversion of meter gauge railway track into broad gauge between New Bongaigaon and Gauhati;

(b) whether it is a fact that goods traffic is not permitted by broad gauge except for tea from Gauhati; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not carrying timber traffic to all over India in order to earn Rs. 10 lakhs per day as Railway freight from Gauhati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The expenditure upto 31 3 1985 is Rs. 73.66 crores.

(b) Terminal facilities for dealing with all types of goods traffic as well as for piecemeal traffic have not yet been provided at Guwahati. As such, inward rake loads only are being dealt with. As in the return direction traffic in rake loads except tea is not available, outward goods traffic is not being loaded at Guwahati.

(c) The timber traffic to destinations all over India is being carried over Metre Gauge and Broad Gauge system by arranging transshipment at New Bongaigaon.

Steps to facilitate industrial goods traffic by rail

3701. SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have provided the private/public Railway sidings to the Private/Government Undertakings to bring their raw material in their industries to manufacture their goods;

(b) whether private/public Government Undertakings industries namely cement, steel plants etc. are despatching their finished product/goods by road instead of rail;

(c) the reasons as to why the railways have not changed their rules suitably so as to enable these industries to transport their finished goods by rail when railways bring their raw material up to their works; and

(d) whether it is proposed to have periodical meetings between private industry owners, General Managers of the Government undertakings and Railway Board Officers to ensure close liaison in the matter with a view to boost goods traffic by rail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, partly.

(c) With a view to inducing Siding owners to offer more outward traffic in