

(d) whether the purpose of the facility of close circuit system is for making the railway enquiry service easily available to the public ; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to stop silence ragging T.V. terminals at stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal to discontinue the system. Instructions have however been issued to reduce the sound level wherever it is found to be excessive.

Construction of B.G. Railway Line Touching all District Head Quarters in Assam

1557. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to construct the proposed Broad Gauge railway line touching all the district headquarters in upper Assam ;

(b) whether the survey in this respect has been completed ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) A survey for construction of a Broad Gauge railway line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh connecting Nagaon, Jorhat and Sibsagar has been conducted. The length of the proposed line alongwith extension to Tinsukia is 464 Kms and is estimated to cost Rs. 342 crores. Another survey for conversion of the existing MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh into BG has also been conducted.

The length of this line is 545 kms. and is estimated to cost Rs 327 crores. A final decision regarding extension of BG line beyond Guwahati will be taken after examination of the Survey Reports.

Cause of Cancer and Ban on Advertisement of Tobacco Products

1558. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent research shows that Tobacco specific nitrosamines and not nicotine is the real cause of cancer ;

(b) whether it is a fact that TSNAS content in tobacco leaves increases hundred-fold with curing and processing carried out in the case of chewing tobacco and thus increasing chances of oral cancer among tobacco chewers ; and

(c) whether Government propose to ban all advertisements on tobacco products direct and indirect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SORAJ KHAPARDE) : (a) According to scientific information available Nicotine which per se is not a cancer producing agent changes into tobacco specific nitrosamines (TSNAS) which are carcinogenic in the course of processing and burning of tobacco.

(b) Sundrying and processing of the tobacco has been shown to be associated with an increase in the TSNAS content. The increase is not constant but depends upon the type of tobacco, the season and the soil in which it is grown, and the quantity of fertilisers used.

(c) Government is actively considering comprehensive programme against tobacco use in the country.