

**Meeting with Chambers of West Bengal on Petro-Chemical Complex at Haldia**

4920. SHRI K. A. RAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he convened a meeting of the representatives of the different chambers of West Bengal in July 1977 in Delhi to discuss on the question of implementing the Petro-chemical complex in Haldia; if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) whether the State Government has applied to the Centre for issue of a letter of intent for production of five petro-chemical products; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has made five applications for the issue of letters of intent for the production of various petro-chemicals items.

(c) A meeting of representatives of various chambers of commerce, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation and West Bengal Government was convened on 18-7-77 to discuss the question of implementation of a petro-chemical complex in Haldia. Certain chambers of Commerce had expressed apprehensions that there was a move to sift the proposed complex from Haldia to Bombay region. The representatives were assured that no such move was being contemplated. They were also told that the question would be decided as soon as naphtha for the project could be located. It was also suggested to the representative that initially, downstream, petro-chemical units should be set up at Haldia. As regards the applications made by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation for letters of intent, further data asked for from West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has been sent to the Planning Commission for appraisal to ascertain whether the proposals are economically viable.

**Conversion of MG/NG to Broad Gauge Lines in Eastern and South Eastern Railways**

4922. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR MONDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the metre gauge and narrow gauge Railway lines in Eastern and South Eastern Railways are under consideration for conversion into broad gauge ;

(b) whether there are any proposal before the Ministry for the purpose and if so, the reaction of the Ministry thereto; and

(c) what new works are in progress and are proposed to be taken up in these Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE)

(a) to (c) : A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of the Jabalpur-Gondia narrow gauge line into broad gauge, is in progress at present. A survey was carried out for the conversion of Rupsa-Talband line to broad gauge but the project was not found to be viable. The following new broad gauge lines are under construction or have been approved for construction on Eastern and South-Eastern Railways in replacement of old narrow gauge lines.

(1) Howrah to Amta new broad gauge line including Bargachia-Champadanga Branch line.

(2) Howrah to Seakhala new broad gauge line.

**Survey for Railway Line from Indore to Bombay**

4923. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey had ever been made in the past for construction of a railway line between Indore and Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this matter; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold a fresh survey of above project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal for survey under consideration at present.