

### Conversion of M. G. lines into Broad Gauge

10165. SHRI A. G. SUBBURAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Administration had taken a decision to convert all the existing Metre Gauge sections into Broad Gauge sections to cope with the increase in traffic taking into account both the necessity to improve movement of traffic and the availability of finance ;

(b) if so, whether priority basis adopted is based on the immediate requirements and also to advise the policy framed ;

(c) whether it is a fact that foundation stone was laid by the late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri at Tuticorin for the conversion of the link between Tuticorin and Dindigul and the survey work completed for the construction of a B.G. line between Dindigul and a Karur ;

(d) whether is also a fact that various organisations of trade in a Tamil Nadu had represented for the immediate implementation of the above work in the current financial year ; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government to carry out the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLI KARJUN ) : (a) No.

(b) A gauge conversion project is taken up :

(i) when a section becomes saturated and is incapable of handling additional traffic by cheaper line capacity inputs.

(ii) when the magnitude of the transshipment involved is such that it is uneconomical or is not feasible at all.

(iii) when they are needed for providing speedy and uninterrupted means of communication to areas which have potential for growth.

The works are taken up on programme basis depending upon availability of funds and after carrying out detailed survey to determine the traffic potential and financial viability of each Project.

(c) No.

The survey work has been completed.

(d) Yes.

(e) The work to be taken up in phases, is under active consideration of the Ministry to be taken up in Current Plan.

### Unrepairable D.T.C. Buses

10166. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Delhi Transport Corporation buses which are in running condition as on 31st March, 1981 ;

(b) the number of buses out of those which can be repaired and the total expenditure involved ; and

(c) What steps have been taken to dispose off the unrepairable buses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) 2691 Buses,

(b) Since all the buses mentioned at (a) above are in running condition, the question of their repairs does not arise.