

TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b), A survey for conversion of the existing Madurai Bodinayakkanur Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge and construction of a new Broad Gauge line from Bodinayakkanur to Cochin has been included in the Budget for 1982-83 at a cost of Rs. 3.00 lakhs. Further action can be taken only after survey is completed.

Merger of Port and Trunk Railways

114. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the port and trunk railways are proposed to be merged.

(b) if so, the advantages and disadvantages thereof; and

(c) the efforts made to sort out the matter with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the results achieved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). A Two-Man Committee comprising of a representative each from the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the Ministry of Railways has been constituted in April 1982 to examine in detail the question of merger of port railways with trunk railways. Deliberations of the Committee have not yet been completed. Advantages and disadvantages and feasibility of the proposed merger would be known only after the study is completed.

Drop-out Rate at Primary and Middle Stages

115. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI RAMAVATAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the drop out rate at the primary and middle stages during the last three years; and

(b) how far the steps proposed to be taken are expected to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) The drop-out rates in percentages at the end of primary (Class V) and middle (Class VIII) stages, for the country as a whole during the three years 1976—1979 are:

Year	At the end of Primary stage	At the end of Middle stage
1976-77	63.1	77.1
1977-78	62.7	76.9
1978-79	62.6	76.8

(b) The steps designed or undertaken, if implemented fully, are expected to result in substantial reduction in the drop-out rates.

National Nutrition Policy

116. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on "Nutrition trends and perspectives in 80s" was held in New Delhi in May, 1982;

(b) if so, the resolutions passed at the seminar and suggestions made to review the nutrition situation; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to chalk out a national nutrition policy and to implement the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD-