

Eklakkhi—Balurghat line

3969. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-DHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to connect Eklakkhi and Balurghat in the North Bengal by Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) With a view to consider provision of rail communication facilities to Balurghat, a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for the construction of a new BG railway line from Eklakkhi to Balurghat (90 Kms. has been sanctioned on 22-4-1982, as an out of turn work, during the current financial year. The estimated cost of this survey is Rs. 11.72 lakhs. The survey is now well in progress.

Further consideration to this project will be given after the survey is completed, reports examined from all angles, subject to availability of adequate funds for the purpose and its clearance by the Planning Commission.

Linking of tribal areas with Railway Lines

3970. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the names of such tribal areas which will be linked with railway lines in the Sixth Plan period and what is the estimated amount required for it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The following New Line Projects, which are under construction and are likely to be completed in the 6th Plan period, will link tribal areas in the following States:

N.A. means not available

S.No.	Name of the New line	Name of the State
1	Balipara-Bhalukpong	Arunachal Pradesh
2	Anguri-Tuli	Nagaland
3	Lalaghat-Bhairabi	Mizoram
4	Dharmanagar-Kumarghat	Tripura
5	Koraput-Machhiguda	Orissa
6	Wani-Chanaka	Maharashtra
7	Bhadrachalam Road-Manuguru	Andhra Pradesh

The approximate requirement of balance funds to complete the above lines during the 6th Plan is Rs. 100 crores.

Conversion of lines in eastern sector

3971. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conversion of lines programme is going on in East-

ern Sector, if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed;

(b) whether Government have received any other proposal of conversion of railway lines, if so, he details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's policy in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN