

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

THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) The following are approved conversion programmes in the Eastern Sector:

1. Barabanki-Samastipur
2. Barauni-Katihar
3. Varanasi-Bhatni
4. Samastipur-Darbhanga
5. New Bongaigoan-Gauhati
6. Katihar-Siliguri-New Jalpai-guri.
7. Gauhati-Dibrugarh

Barabanki-Samastipur conversion project has since been completed. In other projects works are in progress.

(b) The proposals for following conversions have been received from time to time:—

1. Varanasi-Chhapra
2. Muzaffarpur-Raxaul
3. Aunrihar-Jaunpur
4. Phaphana-Indara
5. Sagauli-Bagha-Valmikinagar
6. Varanasi-Allahabad.
7. Darbhanga-Jayanagar
8. Mau-Shahganj
9. Gorakhpur-Chhitauni-Valmiki-nagar
10. Lucknow-Kanpur and Anwarganj
11. Lucknow-Malhaur
12. Katihar-Jogbani
13. Darbhanga-Nirmali
14. Saharsa-Jogbani
15. Betlah to Muzaffarpur via Natehari
16. Bathnaha-Birpur
17. Arrah-Sasaram
18. Ranchi-Lohardaga.

(c) Basically gauge conversion proposals are considered only:

1. when it is discovered that the traffic likely to develop in future cannot be handled on the existing system.

2. when the magnitude of transshipment involved is such that it is uneconomical or is not feasible at all to handle anticipated volume of traffic.

3. when it is needed for providing speedy and uninterrupted means of communication to areas which have potential for growth.

The Railways already have a large number of gauge conversion projects on hand. The funds position for the various railway projects has, however, not been satisfactory, as the funds available are not even sufficient to meet requirements of the on-going projects. As present, therefore, efforts are concentrated on those projects which have made sufficient progress, in order to complete them expeditiously, and start getting return on the investments already made.

Modification of iron ore handling system at Paradip port

3972. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modifications to iron ore handling system at Paradip Port has been completed;

(b) if so, when it will be ready for operation; and

(c) what is the total amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Modification to iron ore handling system at Paradip Port is scheduled for completion by 31 December, 1962.

(b) by March 1963.

(c) Total amount spent till 30th September 1962 is Rs. 9,12,69,000.00.