

### Conversion of metre gauge into Broad gauge in Western Railway

1987. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when converting work of metre gauge into broad gauge which was started more than 10 years before in Western Region (Gujarat State) is likely to be completed;

(b) the approximate cost increased during these years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) First phase of the conversion project, from Virām-gam to Hapa has already been completed and opened on 17-6-80. The second phase, i.e. from Happa to Okha/Port-bander is expected to be completed by 1984, subject to availability of adequate resources.

(b) The anticipated cost of the project will be approximately Rs. 97 crores.

### Railway land lying vacant in Rayagada

1988. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of Railway lands lying vacant in Rayagada town and outside the town;

(b) whether the Rayagada Municipality approached the South Eastern Railway Authority to release the land on payment of cost of the land;

(c) if so, the price fixed by the Railway Authority and the offer made by the Municipality Rayagada;

(d) the reasons for delay for settling the matter;

(e) is it also a fact that famous Majhighasiani temple is situated on Railway land and the Temple Management Board requested the Railway Authority to release the land surround-

ded the temple on free of cost for the development of the area of the temple; and

(f) if so, the decision of the Railway Authority on the request made by the Management?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) 237.447 acres of railway land is available at Rayagada.

(b) Yes. Rayagada Municipality approached the Railway Administration for sparing 35 acres of railway land at Rayagada for relinquishment on payment of cost thereof.

(c) In spite of repeated requests from the Railway Administration from 1976 onwards, the Government of Orissa did not furnish the market value of land till 1980. While this being the position, the Railway Administration made out a proposal for construction of a new rail link connecting Rayagada to Koraput. The Railway are, therefore, in need of the existing surplus land to meet the requirements of the new Rail Link.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes. The temple authorities Majji Gowri temple approached the Railway Administration in 1981 for sparing 1.88 acres of railway land. The Temple authorities were requested to give their willingness to pay the land cost at present day market value as per extant rules. But they did not reply the same in spite of repeated reminders from the Railway Administration.

### National Highways passing through Tribal Districts of States

1989. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the new National Highways approved by his Ministry during Annual Plans of Sixth Plan;