

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : There is no proposal to open a flag station. However, proposal for opening a train halt between Lachmipur and Naikot stations is under examination.

Shortage of Wagons Hit Production in Udaipur District

**3351. SHRI P. GANGADEB :
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD
SINGH :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rail Wagon shortage has hit the production of rock phosphate at the hamar Kotra mines in Udaipur District ; and

(b) if so, whether the iron ore industry of Orissa and Bihar, the mainstay of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, was also faced with similar situation in the month of May this year due to the shortage of Rail Wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Despatches of rock phosphate from Udaipur this year are much more than last year. During the period from 1st January to 20th June, 1971, 3,422 wagons were loaded as compared to 1,104 wagons moved during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) Movement of iron ore on Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation account in May 1971 was about 46,000 tonnes less than that during May 1970. Of this, 22,000 tonnes was due to no programme for Bhilai Steel Plant in May 1971 and another 24,000 tonnes for Paradip Port due to temporary short availability of wagons due to serious hold up of the same in Eastern Sector on account of various anti-social activities.

Wagon Shortage for Soap-Stone Industry in Rajasthan

**2352. RAJMATA KRISHNA KUMARI-
JODEPUR :
DR. KARNI SINGH.:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the soap-stone industry in Rajasthan is facing an acute problem due to the non-availability of wagons ;

(b) if so, the number of factories which have been closed as also of those which have declared a lay off ;

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange lost as a result of the cancellation of export orders caused by wagon shortage ;

(d) the estimated daily requirement of wagons as also the extent to which it is met at present ; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a), (d) and (e). Soap stone is offered for despatch from stations in Udaipur and Jaipur areas and Bhilwara. This is not a programmed traffic and supply of wagons is arranged as per demands placed at different stations and consistent with the commitments to move other essential higher priority traffic offering in these areas preferentially. Despatches of soap stone this year are much more than last year. During the period from 1st January to 20th June, 1971, 4057 wagons were loaded with soap stone as compared to 3646 wagons moved during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) None to the knowledge of the Ministry of Railways.

(c) The Ministry of Railways are not in a position to furnish the requisite information.

Conversion of Miraj-Bangalore Metre Gauge Into Broad Gauge Line

**3353. SHRI DHARMARAO AFZAL-
PURKAR :
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to convert the Miraj-Bangalore metre gauge line into broad gauge ; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be constructed ?