

Development of Railway Lines in Backward Areas

1894. SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of his Ministry for providing new Railway lines for development of backward areas; and

(b) the new Railway lines in terms of Kilometres provided in the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Since new Railway lines have to be financed out of capital borrowed from General Revenues involving payment of dividend obligations, the construction of only such lines as are expected to be financially viable, is normally considered. By and large, construction of new Railway lines is taken up to meet the specific needs of heavy industries, expansion of port facilities, exploitation and utilisation of mineral and natural resources, strategic considerations and Railways' own operational necessities. The new lines opened during the last 3 years which incidentally have helped to develop the areas through which the traverse are—

1. Hindumalkot - Sriganganagar
(B. G.—27·56 Kms.)
2. Maliya—New Kandla portion of Jhund—Kandla project
(B. G.—100·76 Kms.)
3. Singrauli—Obra
(B. G.—57·56 Kms.)
4. Thurbita—Baptiahi (Restoration)
(M. G.—11·71 Kms.)
5. Singrauli - Katni
(B. G.—254·26 Kms.)

Storage Facilities for Iron-ore

1895. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State owned iron ore godowns in Goa have been rented to private parties;

(b) whether the State-owned Minerals

and Metals Trading Corporation is suffering on account of lack of storage facilities; and

(c) if so the steps taken to increase the storage facilities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Iron ore is stacked in open plots and not in godowns. The Railway & Port Trust authorities rent out these plots to MMTC as well as to private shippers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

One-Day Token Strike by Coir Workers in Kerala

1896. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the one day token strike of the ten lakh coir workers in Kerala on the 13th March, 1972; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps will be taken to provide necessary assistance for vitalising the coir industry.

Rural Electrification in Kerala

1897. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any specific plans have been drawn up to electrify all the villages of the state of Kerala by 1974;

(b) whether the work on the plan has started and if so, the progress made so far; and