

The assistance during the year 1974-75 would depend upon the schemes sponsored by the State Electricity Boards and approved by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

Uneconomic Branch Line Committee

4633. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the 28 Surveys recommended by the Uneconomic Branch Line Committee 1969 for extension/conversion/reservation of Branch Lines;

(b) the names of the 12 Traffic Surveys which were ordered to be carried out by the Railways;

(c) the findings obtained in those 12 traffic surveys and the decision of Government on the findings; and

(d) the fate of the 16 remaining surveys recommended by the Uneconomic Branch Line Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) (a) to (d) A statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No LT-6544/74.]

Railway Tracks Sanctioned for Conversion during past three years

4634. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of Railway tracks which have been sanctioned for conversion during the past three years up to 28th February, 1974;

(b) the length of the track and the cost involved and the target date for the completion of work in each case,

(c) whether any phased programme has been drawn up for the conversion of all narrow gauge and metre gauge tracks into broad gauge tracks, and if not, whether such a plan would be drawn up; and

(d) the considerations for the selection of the conversion of these tracks sanctioned during the past three years upto 28th February, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) and (b) Conversion of the following Metre-Gauge lines into Broad Gauge has been sanctioned during the past three years upto 28th February, 1974 Their length, cost and target date of completion have been indicated against each of them:

Sl. No.	Name of section	Length (in kms.)	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Target date of completion
1	Virangam-Okha and Kanalus-Porbander (including Jamnagar-Bedi and Kanalus-Sika)	556.97	42.93	11-12-1977
2	Parallel BG line from Guntakal to Dharamavaram and conversion of Dharamavaram-Bangalore City	280.29	17.59	December, 1976
3	Trivandrum-Qullon-Erithikulam	231.00	13.60	Early, 1976
4	Barabanki-Samastipur including new MG line between Katarnighat and Kauriyahat	603.89	46.34	March, 1977

In addition, the conversion of the section from Mammad to Furl from MG to BG of length 354 kms. and cost Rs. 28.00 crores has been approved. Provision of funds for this work has been made in the Budget for 1974-75.

The following gauge conversion projects are included in the Budget for 1974-75:

- (1) New Bongaigaon-Gauhati.
- (2) Samastipur-Darbhanga.
- (3) Guntur-Macheria.
- (4) Providing BG line from Moradabad and Rampur to Ramnagar and Kathgodam

(c) No phased programme has been drawn up for the conversion of all Narrow Gauge and Metre Gauge tracks into Broad Gauge tracks, and such a plan is not considered necessary as routes are assessed for conversion either when they reach saturation in line capacity or when transhipment points become unmanageable.

(d) The main considerations are the traffic density on the section and whether the section has become saturated, the extent of operational advantage by elimination of transhipment as a result of gauge conversion and the need for speeding up the movement.

Loss Suffered by Cochin Fertilizer Plant

4635. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any annual loss is being suffered in terms of production and the rise in the cost of the project as against the original estimated cost, comparing the present annual rate of production at the Cochin Fertilizer Plant with the installed capacity; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to put the plant into regular production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ

KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been delay in the completion and commissioning of the project.

(b) The various problem areas have been systematically identified and the necessary corrective measures are being implemented. Trial runs are being conducted and efforts are being made to stabilise production.

Rent free Accommodation to Station Masters appointed after 1942

4636. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pre-1942 employed Railway Station Masters have been provided rent free accommodation throughout the country;

(b) whether the Station Masters, who were appointed or promoted as Station Masters after 1942 have to pay house rent for the accommodation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor especially when the Incharges in other Departments like the P & T. are provided rent free accommodation; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to provide rent free accommodation to Station Masters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) (a) and (b) According to the extant instructions the concession of rent free accommodation is admissible to all categories of non-gazetted staff including Station Masters of Government Railways who at any time in the course of their previous service, held, in a substantive capacity, a post which carried the privilege of rent-free quarters or house rent allowance in lieu of free quarters. They will continue to enjoy this privilege if in the course of their subsequent service they hold such a post. This privilege has been extended to the staff of the ex-Company and ex-State Rail-