

August, 1974 regarding conversion of Samastipur-Darbhanga metre gauge line into broad gauge and new Jhanjharpur-Loukaha and state

(a) what is the stage of the construction of the Jhanjharpur-Loukaha Metre Gauge line and Darbhanga-Samastipur Broad Gauge line and whether it is proposed to complete them before the next rainy season,

(b) whether the proposal for converting Dharbhanga-Raxaul Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge line has since been finalised, and

(c) if so facts thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) Work on earthwork and bridges on the Jhanjharpur-Loukahabazar M G line is in progress and the line is scheduled to be completed by June, 1975

The detailed estimate for the Samastipur-Darbhanga M G to B G conversion is under preparation and work will commence after the estimate is sanctioned

(b) No

(c) An appraisal is being made to determine the comparative merits of Darbhanga-Raxaul M G to B G conversion and its alternative the Muzaffarpur-Raxaul conversion. A final decision will be taken after the relevant report is received from the North Eastern Railway Administration and examined

Share of Principal Producers in production of Soaps

2860 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state the share of Principal producers in the total production of soaps in the organised sector during 1973 and the first six months of 1974?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K R GANESH) The share of seven principal producers of soap vis-a-vis the total production by 39 manufacturers in the organised sector during 1973 and the first six months of 1974 was of the order of 86 per cent and 89 per cent respectively

Construction of Railway Line from Howrah to Amta

2861 SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
SHRI SAMAR GHUHA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) when the work of construction of Railway from Howrah to Amta, formerly covered by the Martin Railway, is expected to commence,

(b) the time to be taken for the completion thereof,

(c) whether the State Government is required to meet the expenses for the construction of the Railway or any part thereof, and

(d) if so the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) to (d) The construction of a broad gauge line from Howrah to Amta with a branch line Bargachia to Champadanga, was approved by Parliament on the basis of 50 per cent participation of the State Government in the cost of construction and operation of the lines, in view of the unremunerative nature of the line and the importance attached by the State Government for construction of this line for developmental purposes. The State Government have been addressed to communicate their acceptance to bear 50 per cent of the cost of construction and operation but for no reply has been received from the State Government. The work of construction on this project which will take about two to three working