

on the 14th September, 1965 at Thana on Bombay-Kalyan broad-gauge line has been completed;

(b) if so, the causes of the collision; and

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed on the persons concerned?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (c). The Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety, Bombay held a statutory enquiry into this accident. He has not finalised his report as yet.

Electrification of Madras-Vijayawada Railway Line

520. Shri M. S. Murti: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 892 on the 27th August, 1965 regarding electrification of Madras-Vijayawada railway line and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) and (b). The electrification of Madras-Vijayawada Section has been included in the tentative proposals for electrification of tracks in the 4th Plan. The detailed survey of the section is proposed to be undertaken during 1965-66.

Import of Drum Sheets

521. Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Eanan Sen:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued an import licence to the Indian Oil Corporation for importing 18 gauge drum sheets;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange involved in it;

(c) whether these sheets can be manufactured indigenously; and

(d) if so, the reasons for granting such a licence?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An import licence for a value of Rs. 25 lakhs for 18 gauge sheets was issued to the Indian Oil Corporation in the licensing period October 1963—March 1964 for import from the Rupee-payment area. Another licence for Rs. 20.75 lakhs was also issued in the April-September 1964 period for 21-24 gauge sheets, which was later provisionally amended to cover 18-24 gauge sheets, subject to Government's approval being obtained. Government, however, felt that the Indian Oil Corporation's requirements could be met indigenously. The licence is being surrendered and the Corporation are placing their order on the Rourkela Steel Plant.

(c) and (d). Although 18 gauge sheets are manufactured indigenously their import was being allowed as the indigenous supply was short of the total requirements.

Cement Corporation

522. Shri Kajrolkar: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allotment for Cement Corporation for its crash programme for the Fourth Five Year Plan has been cut down by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what was the target and by how much it has been cut down; and

(c) whether the Cement Corporation will now be able to achieve its production targets?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) to (c). The target for cement production and capacity for the Fourth Five Year

Plan, including that of Cement Corporation of India Limited is still under consideration.

Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari-Trivendrum Railway Line

523. **Shri Muthiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineering and traffic surveys for the new railway line from Tirunelveli to Kanyakumari and then to Trivandrum have been completed;

(b) whether the survey reports and estimates have been prepared;

(c) when Government will take a final decision in the matter; and

(d) whether the scheme will be implemented in the Fourth Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) Yes.

(b) The report and estimate are being finalised by the Southern Railway.

(c) and (d). A final decision can only be taken after the survey reports are received and examined by the Railway Board from all aspects. Proposals for new lines in the Fourth Plan are yet to be finalised in conjunction with the Planning Commission, and as such it is premature to say at this stage, whether this scheme will be implemented in the Fourth Plan.

Railway Services in Border Areas

524. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the Railway Board recently paid a visit to the border areas, particularly those strategic areas which have been affected by the Pakistani hostilities;

(b) whether any scheme for augmenting the railway services in these areas has been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) **RETRENCHMENT IN HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION, RANCHI**

Shri P. K. Ghosh (Ranchi East): I call the attention of the Minister of Industry and Supply to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Notices of retrenchment given to the civil engineers of the Construction Wing of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, with effect from the 1st November, 1965."

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh): The construction work in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, has started tapering off and as a result, some of the staff on the civil Engineering side have become surplus. The total surplus as on the 1st June, 1965 was estimated as 147 persons of various categories. Complete details of the personnel who are likely to be rendered surplus in the Corporation, from time to time, have been forwarded to various public sector projects including the Bokaro steel project. Efforts are thus being made to find suitable alternative employment for as many of the surplus staff as possible. In the meantime, the Corporation have given 3 months notice of retrenchment to 4 Executive Engineers, from 1st November, 1965.