

at Rs. 114 lakhs in 1968-69 rising to Rs. 200 lakhs in 1970-71.

**Reorganisation of Beedi Industry in Kerala**

1039. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD:**  
**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU:**

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala have submitted a scheme to reorganise the State's beedi industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F.A. AHMED):** (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for the rehabilitation of the displaced beedi workers of the Ganesh, Bharath and Durbar Beedi Factories in Cannanore District has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(b) The scheme relates to the organisation of 20 primary and one central cooperative society to rehabilitate 10,325 beedi workers who have been thrown out of employment consequent on the enforcement of the Beedi and Cigar Act and to provide them with financial assistance by way of grants and loans. The total assistance contemplated for a period of five years is estimated at Rs. 7.07 lakhs as grants and Rs. 108.05 lakhs as loans. The State Government has also suggested that the Reserve Bank should accept the scheme for refinancing and that the State Cooperative Bank should extend financial accommodation to the Central Society on the guarantee of the Government.

(c) The scheme is under examination.

**Broad Gauge Railway Line from Pratapnagar to Chhota Nagpur and Rajpipla to Anklesvar Stations**

1040. **SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA:** Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposals of converting Pratapnagar (Baroda) Chhota Nagpur and Rajpipla-Anklesvar into Broad Gauge on the Western Railways;

(b) whether the survey in respect of the aforesaid proposals has been completed; and

(c) if so, the expenditure involved in each of the said proposals?

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH):** (a) to (c). The Western Railway is at present carrying out a review in' o the working of narrow gauge lines on that system. This review includes Pratapnagar-Chhota Udaipur (and not Chhota Nagpur) and Ankleshwar-Rajpipla narrow gauge sections. The question of conversion of these sections to broad gauge will be considered after the results of this review are known and examined by the Railway Board.

**Loan to Public Sector Steel Plant**

1041. **SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:**  
**SHRI GANESH GHOSH:**  
**SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL:**  
**SHRI A.K. GOPALAN:**

Will the Minister of **STEEL, MINES AND METALS** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan given to the public sector steel plants;

(b) whether Government are considering proposals to reduce the loan;

(c) whether one of the proposals for bringing down the loan portion is by additional investment; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the additional capital is likely to be invested?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K.C. PANT):** (a) As on 31st March, 1968,