

Railway accident at Ballygunge

4628. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a serious accident has taken place near Ballygunge, Calcutta very recently ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same ; and
- (c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (c). Presumably the reference is to the derailment of Sealdah-Diamond Harbour Local train No. 122 on 17.11.1970 at Ballygunge station. On that day this train was waiting for the connection of train No. SG 35 Up Budge-Budge Local. The departure signal was in the 'ON' position. Suddenly the train started moving and after going a few yards the leading 4 EMU coaches derailed over trap point of the loop line.

(b) The cause of the accident is under investigation. However, prima-facie the accident was caused as a result of some miscreants overpowering the driver and starting the engine.

Free Supply of Artificial Limbs and Orthopaedic Appliances to Handicapped Persons

4629. SHRI S. N. MISRA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State of Kerala has framed Rules and made an order that all persons who are not paying Income-tax will get supply and fittings of artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances free of charge at the cost of the State ;
- (b) whether the Central Government have considered any proposal to provide facility to the poor handicapped persons in the Union Territories, if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) whether the Central Government propose to issue similar directions to other States also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposal applicable to all the Union Territories is under consideration.

(c) Since this is a State subject, it will not be possible for the Government of India to issue directive to the States in this regard.

Broad Gauge Line from Purulia to Kotshila (South Eastern Railway)

4630. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for conversion of Purulia-Kotshila Railway line on South Eastern Railway into broad-gauge line ;

(b) if so, the time when it will be done ; and

(c) the estimated cost of the work ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) to (c). Based on the recommendations of the uneconomic branch lines Committee, 1969, a detailed traffic survey for the conversion of the Purulia-Kotshila N. G. line to B. G. has been undertaken. A decision regarding this conversion will be taken when the survey is completed and the results thereof become known.

Companies Manufacturing Cigarettes

4631. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of indigenous firms and/or companies which took to manufacture of cigarettes and which were forced to go out of existence during the last three decades ;
- (b) the capital employed by them ; and
- (c) the reasons for their failure ?