

(c) whether any fresh surveys for conversion have been completed in 1970-71 and whether reports have been received from the South Central Zonal Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). Engineering and traffic surveys for the conversion of the Miraj-Kurduwadi-Latur N. G. section to B. G. had been carried out in 1956-57 and the project was found to be unremunerative. Based on the recommendations of the Uneconomic Branch Lines Committee, 1969, a traffic survey for assessing the present day traffic prospects and justification for the conversion of only the Kurduwadi-Pandharpur N. G. section to B. G. has now been undertaken.

(c) The traffic survey of Kurduwadi-Pandharpur section has not yet been completed.

**Absorption of Casual Labourers Working in Andul-Calcutta Chord Link Project (Eastern Railway)**

4753. SHRI BHAGABAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that all casual labourers who were working since 1964 in the Andul-Calcutta Chord Link Project, Calcutta have been retrenched ;

(b) the reasons and the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, Eastern Railway had assured the casual labourers that they will be absorbed in open line maintenance job and in other projects ;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the non-implementation of the assurance ; and

(e) whether Government propose to take urgent steps to reinstate the dismissed workers by absorbing them in other jobs ; if so, the time by which they will be absorbed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Publication of Inquiry Report relating to Train Accident at Perambur near Madras**

4754. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Additional Commissioner for Railway Safety conducted an enquiry into the accidents to the 19 Madras Cochin Mail at Perambur near Madras on 31st October, 1970 ;

(b) if so, the findings of the inquiry ; and

(c) the reasons for not publishing the same ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The report of the Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety detailing the cause of the accident and responsibility therefor is awaited.

**Shortage of Wheel Sets**

4755. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Calcutta edition of Statesman dated the 23rd September, 1970 under the caption "Wagon Builders Facing Crises" ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the shortage of wheel sets ;

(c) the reasons for shortage of five and six M. M. steel plates ;

(d) whether these steel plates are available in the open market at exorbitant price ; and

(e) if so, how these steel plates find their way to the open market ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.