

(a) The gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi railway line in Orissa has abruptly stopped after its inauguration three years back;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to restore the above work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The work is in progress between Kms. 0 to 75. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

[Translation]

Linking of Tonk with Railway Network

270. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closing down Jalpur-Malpura-Toda Rai Singh Section metre gauge line;

(b) whether the Government propose to take some effective steps to bring Tonk district headquarter in Indian Railways map;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conducted any techno-economic engineering survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the above town is likely to be linked with railway network ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The line was closed being an unremunerative branch line making losses.

(b) There is no proposal for rail linking Tonk at present.

(c) Surveys have been conducted in the past.

(d) Does not arise as the work is not sanctioned so far.

[English]

Setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant

271. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone for setting up of Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka has been laid down;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to allow private and public sectors to set up steel plant in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foundation stone was laid in 1971. Subsequently land acquired for the purpose of setting up the steel plant as a central Public Sector Undertaking was transferred to the Govt. of Karnataka in 1994. On a part of this land, M/s. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd., jointly with Karnataka State Industrial Investment & Development Corporation (KSIIDC) are presently setting up an integrated steel plant to produce 1.57 million tpa of hot rolled steel flat products. M/s. Mukand Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. has also proposed to set up an integrated steel plant on the remaining area available at the location.

(c) Under the New Industrial Policy, in vogue since July 1991, iron and steel industry has been delicensed and no industrial licence is now necessary save for certain locational restrictions for setting up of a steel plant.

(d) Pursuant to the New Industrial Policy, Govt. of Karnataka have cleared several iron and steel projects. Of these one unit namely M/s. Bellary Steel and Alloys Ltd. is presently setting up a steel plant of a capacity of 0.5 million tpa in Navinahally, District Bellary.

Local Flavour of Decor and Design at Airport

272. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to adopt airports and give it a local flavour in terms of decor and design;

(b) if so, the action that has been taken to bring certain changes in the Bangalore airport by the Karnataka Government.

(c) whether traditional lamps, a nandi statue and other important indicators of the local culture and heritage are going to be introduced at Bangalore airport; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be executed there ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) It is the general policy adopted by AAI to give a local flavour to terminal buildings in respect of exterior architecture and interior design.

(b) to (d) AAI has initiated action to provide art pieces and antiques indicating the local culture and heritage. This is an ongoing process.

Budget Provision for Umroi (Shillong) Airport

273. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal to process the project of expanding and upgradation of airport facilities at Umroi (Shillong); and

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal for extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 8500 ft. for operation of B-737/Airbus 320 type of aircraft under fair weather conditions has been examined by Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has requested that additional land be made available by the State Government and full budgetary support be provided for taking up the development of the airport.

[Translation]

Ordnance Factories

274. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ordnance factories and the employees engaged in each of them;

(b) whether most of the factories are running in losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof, unit-wise and reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to close down these factories; and

(e) if not, the measures taken to revive such factories and make them profit earning ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The total number of ordnance factories is 39. The number of employees in each of them is indicated in the Statement attached.

(b) to (e) The ordnance factories being Departmentally run units work on 'no profit no loss, basis so far as the production for armed forces is concerned. Therefore, the question of ordnance factories running in loss or closing them down or taking measures to revive them does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Factory	Location	Total employees strength
1	2	3	4
1.	Ordnance Factory Khamaria	Jabalpur	9718
2.	High Explosives Factory, Kirkee	Pune	1804
3.	Ordnance Factory, Chanda	Chandrapur	5636
4.	Ordnance Factory, Dehu Road	Dehu Road	1636

1	2	3	4
5.	Ordnance Factory, Itarsi	Itarsi	2340
6.	Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu	Aruvankadu	2950
7.	Ordnance Factory, Bhandara	Bhandara	3733
8.	Ordnance Factory, Bolangir	Bolangir	1705
9.	Ammunition Factory, Kirkee	Pune	7970
10.	Ordnance Factory, Varangaon	Varangaon	2932
11.	Ordnance Factory, Kanpur	Kanpur	6804
12.	Small Arms Factory, Kanpur	Kanpur	3640
13.	Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur	Jabalpur	10459
14.	Rifle Factory, Ishapore	Calcutta	7317
15.	Ordnance Factory, Dum Dum	Calcutta	1851
16.	Ordnance Factory, Trichi	Trichurapalli	2954
17.	Grey Iron Foundry, Jabalpur	Jabalpur	2415
18.	Gun & Shell Factory, Coosipore	Calcutta	6052
19.	Field Gun Factory, Kanpur	Kanpur	2190
20.	Gun Carriage Factory	Jabalpur	8108
21.	Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project	Tiruchirapalli	741
22.	Machine Tool Prototype Factory	Ambarnath	1907
23.	Ordnance Cable Factory, Chandigarh	Chandigarh	721
24.	Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	Muradnagar	3632
25.	Ordnance Factory, Katni	Katni	2383
26.	Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore	Calcutta	6187
27.	Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath	Ambarnath	3573
28.	Ordnance Factory, Bhusawal	Bhusawal	1602
29.	Ordnance Factory, Ambajhari	Nagpur	7451
30.	Ordnance Factory Project Medak	Hyderabad	2987
31.	Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun	Dehradun	1837
32.	Engine Factory, Avadi	Chennai	1013
33.	Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi	Chennai	5373
34.	Ordnance Factory, Dehradun	Dehradun	1836
35.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur	Kanpur	5271
36.	Ordnance Parachute Factory	Kanpur	2651
37.	Ordnance Equipment Factory, Hazrat pur	Tundla	608
38.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi	Chennai	2843
39.	Ordnance Clothing Factory, Shahjahanpur	Shahjahanpur	6107
		Total	180707