

(c) Cases settled—7.

Cases pending—6.

(d) No, Sir. Only one candidate selected for the post of Ticket Collector could not join service owing to vigilance investigation. On completion of investigation, his name was cleared for appointment to the aforesaid post on South Eastern Railway.

[English]

Defence Production during Ninth Plan

3342. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated an ambitious indigenisation programme of defence production for the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to replace ageing warships and submarines;

(d) the details of the progress achieved in respect of ongoing projects and locations finalised/under consideration for new projects with important features thereof particularly for the projects in Maharashtra; and

(e) the status of projects being implemented/under consideration of DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) Indigenisation is a continuing effort, and would remain as such in the Ninth Plan period also. It would take into account the short-term and long-term requirements of the Services, fund availability, technological capability and progress in indigenous research and development. Overall requirements are projected by the Ministry and the Services, after which the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings draw up their own indigenisation programmes.

(c) Capability improvement and modernisation of the naval fleet are important ingredients of the Ninth Plan.

(d) and (e) Details regarding projects implemented and present status of on going projects may lead to disclosing sensitive information which will not be in the public interest.

Modernisation of Stations

3343. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for modernisation of railway stations in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to modernise the railway stations, particularly Ongole railway station in Prakasam district?

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 (c) Requests for modernisation of many a railway stations have been received. These were considered on merits based on the volume of passenger traffic, importance of the station and number of trains halting at the stations. Accordingly, different works relating of improvement/modernisation have been taken up in Andhra Pradesh at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Kazipet, Tandur, Vijayawada, Palakol, Narsaraopet, Cuddapah, Renigunta, Guntur, Tirupati, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Kakinada Town, Kacheguda and Bellampalli stations.

As regards Ongole, amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic have already been provided. As a measure of augmenting the existing amenities works of provision of water booth; air conditioning of the V.I.P. lounge, renovation of retiring rooms and waiting hall and the vegetarian refreshment room, extension and surfacing of platform Nos. 1 to 3 to hold 24 coaches have been taken up at a total cost of Rs. 10.94 lakh.

[Translation]

Doubling of Patna-Gaya Railway Line

3344. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for the doubling of railway lines;

(b) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Patna-Gaya railway line in Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be doubled; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?