

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Nagbhir-Nagpur Rail Line

3129. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to convert Nagbhir-Nagpur metre gauge line into broad gauge; and
(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be approved?

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) and (b) A survey for conversion of Nagbhir-Nagpur narrow gauge line into broad gauge has been taken up, which is expected to be completed by 31-10-1999. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Purchase of Railway Tracks

3130 SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the rail tracks purchased from the Steel Authority of India and other agencies;
(b) whether there is any differences in the tracks purchased from the SAIL and other agencies; and
(c) 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) Rail tracks ordered for purchase from the Steel Authority of India and other agencies during the current year is as under :

Firm's Name	Qty. in MTs		
	52Kg.	60Kg.	Total
M/s Steel Authority of India (Bhilai Steel Plant)	3,07,211	64,036	3,71,247
M/s British Steel Track Products, United Kingdom	Nil	42,000	42,000
M/s Stalexport, S.A. Poland	Nil	70,000	70,000
M/s Pangang Group International Economic and Trading Corpn. China	Nil	58,000	58,000

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The rails purchased from Steel Authority of India is as per specification T-12/96 with the dispensation in respect of Hydrogen in liquid steel, end-straightness, on line ultrasonic testing and checking of surface quality whereas rails purchased from British, Poland and China are as per User International Conference (UIC) specification.

Utilisation of Steam Loco Shed

3131. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the steam loco sheds are not being used after withdrawal of steam locos;
(b) if so, the details of such steam loco sheds;
(c) the details of the schemes by which these loco-sheds are to be utilised in a profitable manner;
(d) whether there is any scheme to convert the remaining loco-sheds into diesel/electric sheds; and
(e) if so, the time by which the Sonpur Steam Loco Shed is likely to be converted into diesel/electric shed?

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 (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Housing Construction Schemes for Assam

3132. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the state Government of Assam has submitted any housing construction schemes to the Union Government for its approval and financial assistance; and
(b) if so, the details alongwith the amount of financial assistance likely to be provided by the Government, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Housing being a State subject, State Governments are free to formulate and implement various social housing schemes as per plan priorities and their requirements for which financial assistance is available from HUDCO.