

**Conversion of Chandrapur-Gondia-  
Jabalpur Line**

2873. SHRI VISHWESHWAR  
BHAGAT :  
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR  
PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand to convert metre gauge line from Chandrapur-Gondia to Jabalpur into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether it is proposed to be included in Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Survey has not yet been completed.

(c) Decision will depend on results of survey and availability of resources in coming years.

[English]

**Leakage of Methane Gas**

2874. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of PETRO-LEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the methane gas was blown out in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu on July 2, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of people affected;

(c) the facts thereof and the steps taken

to prevent such incidents; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to educate people living around these sites to save themselves from such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND): (a) to (d). There was uncontrolled flow of mud and natural gas containing Methane at well Kovikalappal-9 in District Thanjavur on 2nd July, 1991 which was brought under control the very next day. About 3000 villagers from nearby villages were temporarily evacuated as a precautionary measures.

[Translation]

**Transfer of Running Staff Headquarter  
From Idgah to Bayana (W.R.)**

2875. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to shift the headquarters of running staff (driver and guard) of Kota division on Western Railway from Idgah to Bayana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation about the difficulties likely to be faced by railway employees as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to change in operational requirements consequent to change of steam traction to electric traction in that area.