

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government of setting up headquarters of Cold Fishery Research Centre at Champawat (U.P.); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

2342. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not converting the main metre gauge line between Chennai to Trichy which runs through Chengalpattu Villupuram, Cuddalore, Myladuthurai Kumbalkonam and Thanjavur into broad gauge; and

(b) the steps being taken to convert this main line into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Work is in progress for conversion of Chennai-Trichy line via Villupuram and Vriddhachalam and will be completed in the current financial year. Trichy-Thanjavur is already BG. Villupuram to Thanjavur via Cuddalore has been included in the budget 1998-99 and will be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

[Translation]

Railway Wagon Factory at Barwadih

2343. SHRI INDRA NATH BHAGAT: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land was acquired in Barwadih, Bihar to set up a railway wagon factory and if its office had also started functioning there;

(b) if so, the reasons for shifting the said office to Gadwaroad; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to start the railway wagon factory in Barwadih?

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) No, Sir. There was no proposal to set up a Railway wagon factory at Barwadih. However, a depot for repair of BOXN wagons has been set up and is functional at Barwadih.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Plan to set up a Railway wagon factory at Barwadih as the existing capacity of Industry is adequate to meet the wagon requirements of Railways.

[English]

Conversion of Pachora-Jamner Rail Line

2344. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Pachora-Jamner narrow gauge line into broad gauge line;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend Pachora-Jamner line upto Ajanta caves; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

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) A survey for gauge conversion of Pachora-Jamner narrow gauge line into broad gauge and extension upto Ajanta Caves by construction of a 5 kms. Long new BG rail line, has been taken up.

Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the survey become available.

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

2345. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds to the tune of Rs. 3.48 crores have been sanctioned to Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;