

per month. The work has been proposed in the works programme 1998-99.

(f) and (g) Generally decision is based on manufacturing capability, capacity, pattern of workload and cost consideration. However for some of the items being manufactured the cost may be more compared with trade. The criteria used are:

Full utilisation of resources - infrastructure and manpower available.

Timely supply of spares for in-house use and Control over quality.

Jamalpur workshop produces spares worth about Rs. 40 Crores per year. Certain items for which manufacturing facilities do not exist in the shop like rubber, electrical components, specialised items from original engine manufacturer, large fabrication item etc. are procured from trade. Hardware items which can be produced cheaper by other factories solely devoted to the manufacture of these items e.g. bolts & nuts, rivets, washers etc. are also procured from trade. All raw material is also purchased from trade.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Salem-Cuddalore Rail Line

1319. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gauge conversion work of Salem Junction-Cuddalore Junction rail line has been started;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated for the project so far; and
- (d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

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 from Salem Junction to Cuddalore Junction has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Desert Development Programme

1320. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in Rajasthan under Desert Development Programme, Shelter-belt plantation and road side plantation works were executed in the past and result of them were

found to be quite good;

- (b) whether new guidelines were issued banning of watershed development approach;

(c) whether Rajasthan Government has requested to reconsider that road side plantation and shelter-belt plantation works and has sent a proposal for shelter-belt plantation works execution under Desert Development Programme for approval by Government; and

- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Shelter-belt plantation and road side plantation were taken up in Rajasthan as part of core sector activity of 'Afforestation & Pasture Development in Desert Development Programme'.

(b) No, Sir. New Guidelines for implementation of Desert Development Programme have been issued in 1994, under which watershed development approach has been adopted.

(c) and (d) Shelter belt plantation and road side plantation are already permitted as an integral component of watershed project under the new Guidelines for Watershed Development for implementing Desert Development Programme. However, the Government of Rajasthan's proposal to allow these activities outside watershed project area was not agreed to by the Ministry.

Railway Bridges in Maharashtra

1321. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of railway bridges/over bridges which are under construction in Maharashtra in terms of targets set during 1997-98;
- (b) whether a large number of projects are lagging far behind their schedule;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the fresh proposals, if any, received from the Government of Maharashtra for such bridges and the steps taken thereon;
- (e) the funds made available during each of the last three years to Maharashtra; and
- (f) the phased schedule for completion of these bridges during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

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)