

के चुनाव में जनता के सामने हम अपनी नीतियों को लेकर गये।

और उसमें जनता ने इस बात का अदेश दिया कि हम देश में लोकतन्त्र चाहते हैं, देश में धर्मनिरपेक्षता चाहते हैं और चाहते हैं कि भारतवर्ष में हिन्दू और मुसलमान दोनों भाई भाई की तरह रहें, चाहते हैं कि देश में अदर सामाजिक और आर्थिक विषमताय समाप्त हों। उस अदेश का पालन करने के लिये जनता ने भारी बहुमत से कांग्रेस को प्रदान किया

MR. CHAIRMAN: He may continue his speech tomorrow.

17.59 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS IN MAHARASHTRA

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on new Railway Projects in Maharashtra by way of drought relief.

Statement

The State Government of Maharashtra have been representing for taking up certain railway projects in the Maharashtra State the earthwork portion of which could be done as drought relief works. The projects which have been under consideration for this purpose are:

- (a) New B. G. line from Wani to Chanaka costing Rs. 5.3 crores-length 76 kms.
- (b) Conversion of Manmad to Purli Vajinath from M.G. to B.G. costing Rs. 28 crores-length 354 kms.
- (c) Conversion of Miraj-Latur from Narrow Gauge to Broad Gauge costing Rs. 30 crores-length 326 kms.
- (d) New B. G. line from Apta to Dasgaon as part of the Konkan line from Apta to Mangalore—total cost Rs. 225 crores including rolling stock and interest during construction-length 910 kms.

2. It is unfortunate that a controversy has developed in regard to the subject. I have specifically referred to these lines along with certain others in my Budget Speech in paragraph 42. I quote:

[Important new works]

"42.there are certain important works of new lines and conversions presently under examination and active consideration of the Government. Some of those works are:—

- (i) Wani-Chanaka Line.
- (ii) Manmad to Purli Vajinath—Conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge.
- (iii) Miraj to Latur—Conversion from Narrow Gauge to Broad Gauge.
- (iv) Mangalore—Apta Line.
- (v) Delhi-Ahmedabad—Conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge.
- (vi) Barauni-Katihar-New Bongaigaon and Gauhati—Conversion from Metere Gauge to Broad Gauge.
- (vii) Guntur—Macherla—Conversion to Broad Gauge, and Madikudē-Bibinagar—New Broad Gauge line.

There are some more proposals for new lines, gauge conversions and restorations which are in various stages of consideration. Subject to availability of resources, it is hoped to take up some of these items in due course.

No funds to undertake these works have been provided in the budget for 1973-74. I seek your permission to undertake these works by re-appropriation of funds within the relevant grants, as soon as they are approved by Government.

I shall come to the House again for grant of requisite funds, as may be necessary in the year to execute these works".

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

3. I am glad to announce that after due consideration and keeping in view the acute scarcity conditions in Maharashtra, Government have sanctioned the construction of a Broad Gauge line from Wani to Chanaka and the Conversion of the Metre Gauge line from Manmad to Purli Vajinath. Earthwork on these two projects will be started immediately. In regard to the other two projects in Maharashtra, the availability of resources, the requirements of the Fifth Plan for moving the traffic offered and the inter-se priorities for such development works are being examined.

The section from Apta to Dasgaon, which forms part of the Konkan line, has already been surveyed and earth-

work on this section will be taken up immediately. Detailed survey of the remaining sections will be taken up simultaneously.

Earthwork on the Miraj-Latur Road will also be taken up as a measure of drought relief.

Certain other States such as Rajasthan, Gujarat and Mysore are also affected by drought and the question of taking up similar works in those States is also under consideration.

18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 27/Phalguna 8, 1894 (Saka).