

Closure of refractory units in Bihar

8646. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the refractory units closed or stopped production in Dhanbad district of Bihar;

(b) the capital blocked, number of workers unemployed as on 1 April, 1990 with facts in details;

(c) the reasons for closure of the factories;

(d) whether there is any fall in demand for refractory brick, and other potter materials;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Union Government propose to take steps to cure the sickness of the vital industry of Bihar; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any refractory unit in organised sector closed or having stopped production in Dhanbad District of Bihar.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

(d) to (g). Refractory industry has been facing demand recession mainly because of shift of user industries like steel, cement, fertilisers, petrochemicals etc. from conventional refractories to sophisticated refractories, leading to about 50% capacity utilisation. Government is allowing induction of the latest know-how for upgradation to technology in this industry.

Railway Claims Tribunal at Meerut

8647. SHRI GOVINDBHAI KANTIBHAI SHEKHADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are persistent demands to set up a third railway claims tribunal in the State of Uttar Pradesh at Meerut for the convenience of the public; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to create any additional Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal.

[Translation]

Conversion of Sheopur-Bhind N.G. Line and Construction of B.G. line From Etawah to Kota

8648. SHRI CHHABIRAM ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge line from Sheopur to Bhind has since been completed;

(b) whether Government also propose to construct broad gauge rail line from Etawah to Kota after extending it from Bhind to Etawah and Sheopur to Kota; and

(c) if so, the details of progress made in this regard and the time by which this work will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Gwalior-Bhind NG section is proposed to be