

essing. The applications will be disposed of as per prescribed procedure.

[English]

Conversion of Mangalore-Bangalore Line

6214. SHRIJANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert metre-gauge line between Mangalore and Bangalore into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Establishment of R&D Units by ONGC

6215. SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has mooted a proposal to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for establishing R & D Units with the financial support of the commission to update the technology/equipment for speedier indigenisation;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC propose to adopt indigenisation in their technology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) One of the suggestions made in a meeting between PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Oil and

Natural Gas Commission organised under the aegis of Government Purchases Committee was that, establishment of R & D units in collaboration with Industry, to provide technology and equipment to the desired standards of the ONGC, may ensure speedier to the desired standards of the ONGC, may ensure speedier indigenisation. The industry was informed that ONGC would consider any concrete proposals in this regard.

No formal proposal has been received by ONGC so far from PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

LPG Requirement in Madhya Pradesh

6216. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI M.G. SEKHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have conducted any survey to know the monthly requirement of cooking gas in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of gas cylinders being supplied to Madhya Pradesh every month; and

(d) the steps being taken to make good the shortage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present approximately 6.72 lakh

LPG refill cylinders are being supplied each month to the consumers in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Recently a temporary shortage in the supply of LPG refills was reported from a few locations in Madhya Pradesh due to distributors' problems. Steps have been initiated to solve these problems. The situation is being closely monitored to ensure regular supplies to the consumers.

Reservation of Commodities for Village Cottage Industries

6217. SHRI PALAI K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a phased programme to reserve commodities exclusively for the village cot-

tage industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to protect and encourage small industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). There is already a provision of 836 items reserved for production in the small scale sector. This includes commodities manufactured in the village and cottage industries sector also. There is, however, no proposal at present to reserve commodities exclusively for village & cottage industries.

(c) For the promotion and development of small, village and cottage industries, the following facilities have been provided;

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- (1) Provision of funds at low rate of interest.
 - (2) Subsidy towards interest.
 - (3) Rebate on sale of Khadi and Polyvastra.
 - (4) Purchase preference to village industries products.
 - (5) Excise and Customs Duty exemption.
 - (6) Preferential treatment in regard to supply of raw material.
 - (7) Assistance for Research and Development products.
 - (8) Assistance in marketing products.
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[*Translation*]

Railway Line Between Unnao and Bachhravan

6218. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a rail line between Unnao and Bachhravan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?