

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking had carried out a surprise check of electricity connections in the month of March, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the details of the areas checked by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking ;

(c) the nature of irregularities found ;

(d) how many cases of theft of electricity were detected ; and

(e) the action taken against the offenders ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : a to (e) Surprise checks were conducted by DESU in March, 1985, in North, East and West Delhi and 35 cases of theft and 189 cases of utilisation of excess load and misuse of electric connections were detected. In case of theft, supply has been disconnected and reports have lodged with the police Bills for loss of energy on account of theft are also being raised after due assessment. In regard to utilisation of excess load and misuse of electricity, instructions have been issued by DESU to levy 25% surcharge and to raise bills at the maximum rate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Sir, the incidents, of theft of electricity and cases of utilisation of excess load are taking place off and on. This fact cannot be denied that employees of DESU are also involved in this work and this has been mentioned in this House earlier also. I would, therefore, like to know the names of the persons who have been found involved in 35 cases of theft and 189 cases of utilisation of excess load.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I can put in a very short answer that the persons who wanted to make use of this power are the persons who have stolen,

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : You have said in your reply that reports have been lodged with the police. After all the reports would have been lodged against some persons. What is the difficulty in disclosing the names of such persons and the officers of DESU involved in such cases?

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, there is no intention on my part to hide the names of these people. At the moment I do not have the names, but if the hon. Member wants the names, I will give him.

Conversion of Sholapur-Bijapur and Hospet-Sholapur Rail Lines into Broad Gauge

* 496, SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Sholapur-Bijapur and Hospet-Sholapur rail lines into broad gauge ;

(b) if so, when these projects are likely to be taken up ;

(c) whether the rail line between Guntakal to Hospet presently restricted for the use of goods trains is likely to be opened for passenger trains ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to take up conversion of these lines, at present.

(c) and (d) The line from Guntakal to Bellary has been opened to passenger traffic, as Phase-I, on 30.12.1984. For opening Bellary to Hospet section, the work will be taken in Phase-II, subject to availability of resources.

MR. SPEAKER : That is the central theme.

(Interruptions)

SARI S. M. GURADDI : Sir, our hon. Railway Minister always comes and says that there is financial stringency. May I know whether the Railway Minister or the Railway Department had not taken up any conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge for the last three or four years ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the conversion cost of metre gauge into broad gauge comes to about Rs. 30 lakhs per kilometre whereas the laying of a new broad gauge line comes to approximately Rs. 40 lakhs. This, of course, depends entirely on the terrain, but I am giving it on an average. Therefore, sometimes it is considered more worthwhile to lay a broad gauge line instead of conversion. This, of course, again differs from case to case. There have been conversions which the Railway Ministry have undertaken.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Summer Specials Between Bombay and Saurashtra

*490. **SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH** : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have decided to stop running of Summer Specials between Bombay and Saurashtra ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any representations have been received against such a decision ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Railway thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scholarships to SC/ST Students

*495. **SHRI SATYANARAYAN PAWAR** : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to grant scholarships to every student belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to raise the standard of their education in the country ; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) At the elementary stage education is free for all children including those belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities. Students belonging to these communities are also given free books and stationary and free uniforms in the case of girls.

2. Some of the State Governments are also giving scholarships/freeships to students belonging to SC/ST communities for pre-matriculation studies.

3. As regards posts matric studies, scholarships are given to eligible students belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled tribe communities. These scholarships are given by the Ministry of Home Affairs under a Centrally-sponsored scheme. The scheme is an open ended one. This scheme covers all SC/ST students who are eligible for this award, subject to certain conditions and restrictions governing the award of these scholarships.

4. Scholarships are given to students at different rates depending upon the courses of study. The following rates are in operation at present :