

(a) whether any Conference of Chief Electoral Officers of all the State and Union Territories was held on 27th March, 1971; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at the the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the decisions arrived at the Conference is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (1) Tentative programme for revision of electoral rolls in the year 1971 with January 1, 1971 as the qualifying date was chalked out. According to this programme, the electoral rolls in all the States should be revised and finally published before the 31st October, 1971.
- (2) Having regard to the complaints regarding the omission of names the electoral rolls on the eve of the general elections to the Lok Sabha, it was decided that enumerators engaged for house to house verification of the electoral rolls should be supplied with enumeration books.
- (3) It was decided to amend the nomination form so that a candidate can make a declaration in the form itself regarding the name by which he should be described in the list of contesting candidates with the correct spelling, so that the same can be adopted on the ballot paper.
- (4) It was decided to hold an All India Conference of Election Officers, namely, Chief Electoral Officers, District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers etc. in New Delhi in September or October, 1971.

Shortage of Telephone Cables

*58. SHRI S. M. KRISHANA: Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-

MENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of telephone cables in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some more industries to manufacture telephone cables in the country; and

(d) the time by which the country will be self-sufficient in telephone cables ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). As the requirements of P and T is currently in excess of the present level of production of Cables in the country, there has been a shortfall which, however, is being met by imports.

(c) Government have approved the establishment of a second cable factory at Hyderabad with a capacity of 5,000 K. M. per annum and have approved M/s. Traco Cables Ltd., creating a capacity of 1,000 K.M. per annum for tele-communication cables.

(d) By the beginning of the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Alignment of Western Kosi Canal in Nepalese Territory

*60. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any effort or approach has been made during the year 1971 to secure approval of the Government of Nepal for the alignment of Western Kosi Canal in the Nepalese territory; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) and

(b). Continuons efforts are being made by the Government of India to secure the permission of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to the alignment of the Western Kosi Canal in that country. The question was last taken up in October, 1970 with His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Approaches have since been made to expedite reply but that is still under the consideration of the H.M.G. of Nepal.

**Setting up of Paper Pulp Mills
in Assam in Public Sector**

136. SHRI LILA DHAR KOTOKI: Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Paper Corporation, as contemplated in the Prime Ministers statement made in Lok Sabha on the 5th December, 1969 regarding economic development of Assam, has since been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The concrete steps Government have so far taken in the matter of putting up Paper/Pulp Mills in Assam in the Public Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Corporation was registered on the 29th May, 1970 in the name of Hindustan Paper Corporation with the authorised share capital of 30 crores. It has been entrusted with implementation of the following projects :

(i) Nagaland Pulp/Paper Project for a capacity of 30,000 tonnes of pulp/paper, estimated to cost Rs. 16 to 18 crores.

(ii) Kerala Newsprint Project for a capacity of 75,000 tonnes of Newsprint, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 21 crores.

(iii) Assam Pulp/Paper, Project with

a capacity of 80,000 tonnes of pulp and 50,000 tonnes of paper estimated to cost Rs. 21 crores.

(c) The progress in respect of the Assam Pulp/Paper Project has been reported to be as under :—

(i) Spot Investigations have been made to finalise the Selection of site.

(ii) Negotiations have been in progress with the state Government to ensure provision of necessary infrastructural facilities and supply of raw materials etc.

(iii) The preparation of Detailed Project Report for the Project has been entrusted to the National Industrial Development Corporation.

(iv) Necessary training of selected personnel from Assam for employment in the proposed factory has been instituted and is in progress.

(v) Proposals for setting up of a second pulp/paper Project in Assam made by the State Government are also under active consideration.

**Extension of Broad Gauge Line from
New Bongaigaon-Jogighopa to Gauhati**

137. SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI : Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state the progress so far made in the matter for extending broad gauge line from New Bongaigaon/Jogighopa to Gauhati and onward to Tinsukia in Assam ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) SHRI HANU-MANTHAIYA : Engineering and Traffic surveys for the conversion of the Bongaigaon-Gauhati M. G. section to B. G. have been carried out and the survey reports are at present under the examination of the Railway Board. A decision regarding the conversion will be taken after the survey reports are examined