

On Eastern and South Eastern Railways there have been some difficulties because of the opposition of the recognised unions and of casual labour awaiting appointment to regular posts. Having regard to the employment situation in West Bengal, the possibility of giving appointment to the Light Railway staff on Railways elsewhere is now under consideration.

Dieselisation and Electrification of Locomotives in Gujarat

*201. SHRI D. D. DESAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state when dieselisation and electrification will be completed and coal-fired steam operated locomotives discontinued in Gujarat, there being no coal deposits in that area ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : Dieselisation and Electrification of railway routes is a continuous process and is being undertaken according to a phased programme depending on the relative requirements of different sections of the Indian Railways.

A number of through goods services in Gujarat have already been dieselised and electrification of the section from Virar to Ahmedabad is already in progress.

Because of the limited availability of resources, it would not be possible to eliminate use of steam locomotives immediately.

Broad Gauge Line from Samastipur to Raxaul (North-Eastern Railway)

*202. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether reports of the survey undertaken for extending the broad gauge line from Samastipur (North-Eastern Railway) to Raxaul have by now been examined ;

(b) if so, the results thereof ; and

(c) whether in examining the reports the facts that Darbhanga has the only biggest airport for defence requirement, it is the junction from where three railway lines run to the Indo-Nepalese border of Raxaul, Jaya Nagar and Nirmali and that it is the most

populous district in the country having a population of about 55 lakhs, are being taken into consideration to give weightage to the claim for taking the line to Raxaul via Darbhanga ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Survey has been completed and the report is under preparation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Double Railway Track between Tiruchirappalli and Tuticorin (Southern-Railway)

*203. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to double the Railway track between Tiruchirappalli and Tuticorin ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) the estimated cost of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Visits by Foreign Industrial Delegations

*204. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Industrial Delegations who visited India during 1969-70 and 1970-71 ;

(b) the number of Indian Industrial Delegations sent abroad during 1969-70 and 1970-71 ; and

(c) what agreements in connection with Industrial development were arrived at through exchange of visits by Industrial Delegations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) to (c). The