

shipped through Indian vessels. Through various media and forum like All India Shippers' Council and its regional Associations Government persuades and appeals to private Indian Shippers to patronise Indian vessels.

**Modernisation of Manufacturing Units**

\*971 SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Ministry's programme for modernisation of manufacturing units under its control is based more on import of equipment rather than for indigenous equipment;

(b) if so, what is the import content along-with the amount in this programme as against Indian component;

(c) what are the reasons for having the programme based on high import content; and

(d) what steps are being taken to reduce the import content in the interest of indigenous availability?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Conversion to B. G. of Aurangabad-Manmad M. G. Line**

\*972. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aurangabad-Manmad metre gauge line is being developed into a broad gauge line and a sum of Rs. 80 crores has been sanctioned for the same;

(b) if so, whether work on this project has been started;

(c) what will be the expenses in dismantling the old line and arranging the new broad gauge line; and

(d) why has it been thought essential to have the change over with such huge expenditure involved?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Aurangabad-Manmad section is being converted into a broad gauge line, as the first phase of the conversion of the Manmad-Parbhani/Purli Vajinath project. The whole project has been approved at an approximate cost of Rs. 31 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cost of the conversion of the line between Manmad and Aurangabad is expected to be approximately Rs. 16 crores.

(d) Conversion of this line has been accepted as a necessity to serve the backward Marathwada region of Maharashtra State which will provide a direct BG connection to other parts of Maharashtra and the rest of the country.

**Increase in Allocation for Improving Roads in Tamil Nadu**

\*976. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal from Tamil Nadu Government for increase in allocation for improving roads in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre has sanctioned only Rs. 30 crore; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the allocation?