

(e) if no action is proposed, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Such differences as may arise from time to time are settled at meetings of the Board of Directors of which the General Managers of Steel Plants' are also members.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Agreement between Public Sector Undertakings to Purchase Products of each other

*505. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector undertakings under his Ministry have mutually agreed to purchase their requirements from each other, irrespective of the quality and price of the items so purchased ;

(b) if so, whether such a decision will not encourage inefficiency on the one hand and prove grossly discriminatory against the efficient private sector units on the other ; and

(c) whether Government would seek the views of the Attorney General of India on the legality of the above decision and lay the same on the Table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Doubling of Railway Line between Lucknow and Gorakhpur (North-Eastern Railway)

*506. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal of doubling the Railway line between Lucknow and Gorakhpur on the North-Eastern Railway to handle the increased traffic ; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, the proposal for a separate B. G. line between Barabanki and Gonda and conversion of Gonda-Gorakhpur M. G. line into B. G. has been included in the perspective plan for gauge conversions. Engineering and Traffic surveys for this proposal have already been completed and the survey reports are under examination of the Railway Board.

Foreign exchange for Railways during Fourth Five Year Plan

*507. SHRI J. M. BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether expansion programmes of the Railways during the Fourth Plan have been finalised ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) the estimated cost of the programmes and the foreign exchange content thereof ; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet foreign exchange requirements for the programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI GOVINDA MENON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). *Salient features of the Railways' Fourth Plan and foreign exchange content thereof* :—

The Fourth Five Year Plan of the Railways envisages a total foreign traffic of 265 million originating tonnes in 1973-74 and an increase of 23.06% in vehicle kilometres for non-suburban passenger traffic over the 5-year period. The total Plan outlay for this was estimated at Rs. 1,700 crores. In discussions with the Planning Commission, the Plan outlay was reduced to Rs. 15.25 crores in view of the difficult resources position. This amount would enable the Railways to cater to only 255 million tonnes of freight traffic and an increase of 19.8% in vehicle kilometres in non-suburban passenger traffic.

The gap between this and the traffic actually anticipated is proposed to be met by continuing in service overage rolling stock to the extent necessary. It is also proposed