

[28 April, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

comparison of these systems is not valid. Indian Railways do not have any definite data regarding Chinese Railways.

Progress on Chandigarh—Ludhiana Rail Line

3789. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether any progress has been made on Chandigarh—Ludhiana, via Morinda, rail line for which the Railways Minister had laid stone at the time of inauguration, at Mohali last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): The progress is as follows:

- (i) Rs. 3.5 crore have been deposited with the State Govt. of Punjab for acquisition of land. Part of land required for the project is expected to be available by Sept. 2000.
- (ii) Rs. 1.15 crore has also been deposited with Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh for acquisition of land. The land is expected to be available by June, 2000, after removal of encroachments.
- (iii) The Geotechnical investigations, preparation of drawings and calling of tenders are in progress.

The work will start after the land is handed over to the Railways by the concerned authorities.

Bankura-Beliatore Gauge Conversion Project

3790. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1825 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 1999 and to state:

(a) whether the first phase of work on the gauge conversion project from Bankura to Belialore (20 km.), part estimate for which had been received and was under process in the Railway Board for sanction, has since been finalised;

(b) if so, what is the status of the work; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when it is expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The part-Detailed Estimate for the first phase of work on the Bankura Damodar River (BDR) Railway Gauge Conversion