

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Gaisal Collision

494. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned failure of staff caused Gaisal collision: Probe which appeared in Indian Express dated the 18th August, 1999;

(b) if so, whether a task force has been set up for better understanding of the working difficulties of NF Railway administration, reportedly recommended by the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendation of Chief Commission Safety a task force has been set up comprising of seven senior Railway Board Officers from different disciplines which includes OSD/Safety, EDTT(S), EDE(RRB), ED(Signal), ED/ Finance, ED/ME(Tract), and ED(LM).

Extension of Broad Gauge Rail line from Silchar

†495. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of extension of broad gauge rail line from Silchar to Jiribam is likely to be taken up;

(b) whether the survey work for conversion of this line has been taken up; if so by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the amount of funds allotted for conversion of the above rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The work has been sanctioned as a material modification of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar section. The detailed planning has been taken up for starting the work. The work will be completed along with the gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) Since this work is sanctioned as a part of Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project, funds as required have to be tret out of the allotment for that work, which, in the current year, is Rs. 40 crs.

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.