

[27 July, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Rail-Wheel optimisation

726. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have taken up a project called "Rail-wheel optimisation";

(b) if so, the details of the project like the cost of the project, the time of the project by which it is going to be completed and the commencement date of the project; and

(c) the details of the organisation which has undertaken this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Railways are participating in a Joint Research Project of the UIC (International Union of Railways) on Rail Wheel Optimisation. The project commenced in the year 2000, is expected to cost approximately US \$ 5-6 million and is likely to be completed in 4-5 years time. Indian Railways has agreed to pay US\$ 1 million for the project. Other participants include SPOORNET (South African Railways), RTRI (Railway Track Research Institute, Japan), EJR (East Japan Railways), QR (Queensland Railways, Australia), ERRI (European Railway Research Institute), AAR (Association of American Railroads), Russian Railway Research Institute and Latin American Railway UIC is coordinating the project.

Safety Check of railway bridges

727. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had done safety checks of the existing railway bridges between Shornur and Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the repair works done in the existing bridges recently; and

(d) the reasons for collapse of bridge at Kadalundi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inspections of all railways bridges are conducted periodically by officials at different levels such as Senior Section

Engineers/Bridges, Assistant Engineers and Divisional Engineers and in case the problems warrant specific attention even at the level of Deputy Chief Engineer and Chief Bridge Engineer.

(c) Repair works as necessitated as a result of periodic inspection of Railway officials are being regularly carried out.

(d) Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety is enquiring into the causes of accident on Kadalundi Bridge. His findings are awaited.

Foundation Stone for Kakinada-Kotipalli rail line

728. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Minister of State for Railways has laid the foundation stone for restoration of the historic Kakinada-Kotipalli rail line at old railway station, Kotipalli in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether this restored line is expected to cost Rupees 66 crores;

(c) what is the total amount earmarked for the project in the 2000-2001 budget; and

(d) by when this project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The updated anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 67.44 crore.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 1.00 crore had been provided for the work in Budget 2000-2001.

(d) The completion of the project would depend upon handing over of the land by the State Government and availability of resources in the coming years.

Introduction of new sub-urban trains in SCR

729. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether direct suburban trains from Bolaram to Falaknuma and Umdanagar are being introduced by South-Central Railway; and