

(a) whether any memorandum or request has been received by Government to merge Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. (B.C.L.) with Railways;

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far, in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) As announced by Hon'ble Minister of Railways in her budget speech of 2009-10, process is being initiated for transfer wagon units of Burn Standard and Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. (BCL) to MOR. A dialogue has already been started with concerned Ministry for waiver of accumulated liabilities of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. and inter ministerial discussion for transfer of BCL shall be started soon.

(c) Does not arise.

Unused railway land

†849. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have additional land that remains unused;

(b) if so, the details of available land, throughout the country, State-wise;

(c) whether Government proposes to bring such land under use for other activities or commercial purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps Government is taking to save unused land from encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Connecting Udhampur with Qazigund

850. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to connect Udhampur with Qazigund in Kashmir by the Railways; and

(b) if so, by when the plan would be completed?

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

(b) The Udhampur-Katra (25 km.) portion is targeted to be completed by December, 2011, The alignment between Katra-Qazigund is under review and an Expert Committee appointed to study

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi