

Conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Metre Gauge Line

1257. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been spent on the conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Metre Gauge rail line into broadgauge;

(b) the work completed so far vis-a-vis expenditure incurred on the project; and

(c) what is the amount required for the remaining work.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) to (c) Manmad-Aurangabad section has been taken up as Phase I of the conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Vajinath M.G. section to B.G. which is an approved work. The approximate outlay upto the end of March, 1984 is Rs. 5.76 crores and the outlay during 1984-85 is Rs. 4.01 crores. The present day anticipated cost of the Manmad-Aurangabad conversion is Rs. 27 crores. Overall physical progress of work is 21.68 per cent.

Soft Drink Prices in Delhi

1258. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government exercise any control over the prices of soft drinks manufactured in Delhi, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to check profiteering by manufacturers of soft drinks in the Capital?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Soft drinks are not considered that essential a commodity as to warrant price control.

Demands of Railway Employees

1259. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some railway unions/associations/federations/confederations etc. have sent charter of demands to railway authorities during the period from 1st February, 1980 to 10th April, 1984;

(b) if so, what are details in this regard;

(c) whether any agreements have been arrived at in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. Charter of demands has been submitted during the period from 1.2.1980 to 10.4.1984 to railway authorities by Railway Unions/Associations/Federations/Confederations like All India Loco Running Staff Association, All India Station Masters' Association, All India Guards' Council, All India S & T Staff Association, All India Ticket Checking Staff Association, All India Ministerial Staff Association, Indian Railway Workers Federation, All India Railway Employee Confederation etc.

(b) to (d) All the above mentioned are unrecognised categorical associations and they cater to the demands of the particular category of railway employees represented by them. Demands received from these associations have been examined on merit and suitable action where found necessary taken under administrative and financial constraints.

As per extant policy no negotiations are held with unrecognised organisations as mentioned above. One Railway, negotiating facility has been given to two All India Labour Federations viz. All India Railwaymen's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen's who represent all categories of railway employees. In con-

sultation with these two large Federations, an elaborate machinery has been set up for grievance redressal. Regular meetings are held with each recognised Union/Federation separately at the Divisional level by the Divisional Railway Manager and his officers, at the Zonal level by the General Manager and his Heads of the Departments and at the Railway Board level by the Member Staff and the officers of the Railway Board. In addition, informal as well as joint meetings are also held whenever necessary. This arrangement known as the Permanent Negotiating Machinery has been working very satisfactorily and has proved quite successful.

Also, since all railway employees are government employees, discussions are held at the National level, at meeting presided over by the Cabinet Secretary or his nominee where also railway employees are represented through these two recognised Federations alongwith the representatives of employees from other Departments of the Government under the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM). Deriving from this JCM Scheme, the Member Staff as Secretary in the Ministry of Railways holds Departmental Council meetings with the two recognised Federations. Thus there is plenty of opportunity for railwaymen to redress their grievance.

Most of the demands raised by unrecognised Union/Associations have been discussed in meetings with the two recognised Federation/Unions held under PM/JCM Scheme and action taken on the conclusions arrived thereat.

Substandard Drugs

1260. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on several occasion in the past, the drugs produced by drug manufacturing companies in the country have been found to be sub-standard;

(b) whether the samples of drugs produced by drug manufacturing companies in the country are tested at some regular intervals and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any warning is issued to the drug manufacturing companies for producing and marketing sub-standard medicines;

(d) whether any penalty or fine has been levied if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what measures Government propose to take ensure availability of standard medicines in the market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) An analysis of the number of samples of drugs tested by the drug testing laboratories in the country and the number of samples found to be of sub-standard quality for the period of 4 years would indicate a figure of 15 to 18 per cent.

(b) Samples of drugs produced by the drug manufacturing companies in the country are drawn at regular intervals by the State Drugs Inspectors appointed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(c) If deficiencies are found during these inspections, administrative action such as warnings, suspension or cancellation of the licence is taken.

(d) Fines are levied by the courts while awarding sentences for contravention of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

(e) Some specific measure have been taken recently to ensure availability of standard medicines in the market and also to check the manufacture and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs which are as under:—

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act was amended in 1982 to provide for more effective measures for combating the menace of spurious drugs.