

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) All feasible steps will be taken to clear the extra rush of traffic before and after the Asian Games by way of running of special trains or by augmentation of coaches in existing trains based on the volume of traffic.

Railway electrification during the Sixth Five Year Plan

294. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target of the Railways for electrification during the Sixth Plan; and

(b) what is the target for electrification of railway during the current year in Andhra Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) 2800- Route Kms. approximately.

(b) 131 - Route Kms. between Araku and Waltair forming part of Waltair-Kirandul Electrification Project.

Diversion of funds earmarked for conversion of Railway line

295. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds allotted for the conversion of the metre gauge into broad gauge lines from Samastipur to Darbhanga (NER) have been diverted to some other project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor

(c) if not, what progress has been made in the conversion work so far in view of the fact that the inauguration of the conversion work was to be done by him sometime back; and

(d) what progress has been made so far in the survey work of the Darbhanga-Jayanagar (NER) broad-gauge conversion project, if no progress has been made the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the severe constraint of funds for construction of New Lines, it has not been possible to make any headway in the construction of the Sakri-Hasanpur new MG line, without which the MG system North of Darbhanga would get isolated if the Samastipur-Darbhanga section is also converted to B. G. This together with the fact that adequate funds are not available for conversion schemes either, the work on the Samastipur-Darbhanga project has not made any progress in the field.

(d) The overall progress of survey work for conversion of Darbhanga-Jayanagar from metre gauge into broad gauge is about 15 per cent.

Railway accidents

296. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rail accidents which took place during the last two months and at what places;

(b) the total number of persons who died, the damage caused to the properties and the steps taken by Government in this regard; and