

(b) the length of Railway lines converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during 1980-81 upto date ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert any other such metre gauge lines into broad gauge during the current financial year 1981-82 ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) Assam is connected to North Bihār and U.P. by North-Eastern and N.F. Railway systems. The whole metre gauge length from Barabanki to Gauhati is under process of conversion into broad gauge.

The section between Samastipur and Gorakhpur, part of Barabanki-Samastipur conversion project (587.27 km) has already been converted and commissioned as broad gauge and the remaining section between Gorakhpur and Barabanki will be commissioned as broad gauge by middle of this year.

The Barauni-Katihar (182 km) section is also being converted into broad gauge and the work is planned to be completed by December, 1982.

A parallel broad gauge line, 165 km. long, is being laid between New Bongaigaon and Gauhati and the work is progressing satisfactorily and is planned to be completed by middle of 1982.

The conversion of the existing metre gauge line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh (580 km.) is an approved scheme and the work will be taken up shortly.

A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for a parallel broad gauge line from Bachhwara to Hajipur (71 km.) is in progress and is planned to be completed by September, 1981. The project report will be examined

thereafter. The work will be taken up subject to availability of funds and clearance by Planning Commission.

Conversion of Parbhani Adilabad Metre-Gauge into Broad Gauge

1809. SHRI G.R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether during his visit to Bombay he declared that he agreed in principle to the conversion of Parbhani-Adilabad Metre Gauge into Broad gauge and to connect it to the Delhi-Madras grand trunk line ?

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

Creation of a Division of South Central Railway

1810. SHRI G.R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand for the creation of an independent division of South Central Railway at Purana or a demand of transferring the Purana sub-division to Central Railway from South Central Railway ; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Suggestion to set up a Railway division at Purana was received which was examined and not found feasible on operational and administrative considerations. Purana does not have any sub-divisional office and as such the question of any demand to transfer it to Central Railway does not arise.