

[18 August, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

**Pending gauge-conversion projects in Orissa**

2395, SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) whether he would consider the long pending broad gauge lines conversions projects of Badmpahar to Keonjhar and Bangriposi to Gorumahisani which is demanded by tribal people of the Mayurbhanj;

(b) if so, whether Government would give any priority to the some pending projects for upliftment of the tribal people;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any constructive work towards the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, how much time Government would require for above said pending projects to complete?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The surveys for construction of a new broad gauge railway line from Badampahar to Keonjhar and for the extension of Rupsa-Bangriposi line (now under conversion) up to Gorumahisani are in progress. Further consideration of these projects would be possible once the survey reports become available.

(b) to (e) A number of railway projects have been taken up in the underdeveloped areas of Orissa on socio-economic considerations and are being progressed as per the availability of resources. However, the Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support to expedite the completion of these projects.

**Facility of IST class in trains**

2396. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kangra and Kullu valleys of Himachal Pradesh are famous for religious, adventures and other tourist activities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no facility of 1st class or 2nd Chair