

(घ) यदि नहीं तो उसमें देरी के क्या कारण हैं ?

t [Construction of broad gauge line from Samastipur to Bara Banki

152. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:

SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the scheduled date for completion, of broad gauge line from Samastipur to Bara Banki Stations of the North-Eastern Railway;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in construction of the line;

(c) whether the work of converting Barabanki-Sonepur line of North-Eastern Railway into broad gauge is likely to be completed by the stipulated date, the 31st March, 1980; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?]

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी० के० जाफर शरीफ) : (क) से (घ) बाराबंकी-समस्तीपुर आमान परिवर्तन परियोजना को पूरा करने का मूल लक्ष्य दिसम्बर 1977 था किन्तु धन की सीमित उपलब्धता के कारण ऐसा करना सम्भव नहीं हो सका। 111 कि० मी० लम्बी समस्तीपुर-जोनपुर के मीटर लाइन से बड़ी लाइन में आमान परिवर्तन की परियोजना को पहले ही पूरा करके यातायात के लिए खोल दिया गया है। इसके अलावा, मिश्रित लाइन के रूप में सोनपुर-पलेजघाट (5.5 कि० मी०) शाखा लाइन के कार्य को भी पूरा करके यातायात के लिए खोला जा चुका है। सोनपुर-

बाराबंकी के बीच के शेष खंड 1981 के मध्य तक पूरा करके यातायात के लिए चालू कर दिये जाने की सम्भावना है क्योंकि इस कार्य के लिए अपेक्षित पूरी रेलपथ समिती 1980 के अन्त तक उपलब्ध होने की आशा है।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Barabanki-Samastipur gauge conversion project was originally targetted for completion by December 1977 but it had not been possible to do so on account of limited availability of funds. Conversion of (111 Kms. long) Samastipur-Sonepur project into BG has already been completed and opened to traffic. Besides, Sonepur-Palezaghata (5.5 Kms.) branch line as a mixed gauge has also been completed and opened to traffic. The remaining section between Sonepur and Barabanki is expected to be completed and commissioned by the middle of 1981, since the full quantity of Permanent way materials required for this work are likely to be available by the end of 1980.]

U. S. Military Base in Indian Ocean

153. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR: SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA have decided to expand the Diego Garcia military base in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government of India have taken in this regard?

[] English translation.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our reports the Defence Department has announced that funds would be sought in the 1981 Budget, starting October, 1980 for further development of the harbour, the aircraft parking space and runway, and the fuel storage facilities in Diego Garcia.

Consistent with our commitment to the Establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean we continue to oppose foreign military presence, including bases, such as Diego Garcia. In his statement at the UN General Assembly on 12-1-1980, our Permanent Representative expressed his 'grave concern' at recent developments in "the Asian region including the Indian Ocean". This view is also stressed by us in high level contacts with foreign governments.

Swindling by labour recruiting agencies for Gulf area

154. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the agencies unearthed by Government which are swindling job seekers in the Gulf area; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):
(a) Complete information on these agencies is being collected and completed, and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

(b) All complaints of agencies alleged to be swindling of Indian job seekers are referred to appropriate police authorities for investigation and action. Our diplomatic missions in those countries, to which large numbers of Indian workers are attracted for employment, involve

themselves in identifying similar cases of allegations against unscrupulous recruiting agencies. They report these cases to the Government.

The recruiting agents are required to pay a security deposit to the Protectors of Emigrants before emigration clearances are granted. In case of complaints, these security deposits are liable to be confiscated if investigation of any complaint confirms that they have been swindling job seekers.

The Government is also considering introducing new legislation on emigration which would provide the Government with regulatory control over the recruiting agencies.

12 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting the reply to Unstarred Question 2156, answered on the 23rd March, 1979, regarding meetings of the Consultative Committee outside Delhi

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I suggest that the statement listed in the name of the Foreign Minister be made now. We are all here and he too is ready.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, first there is the statement by Shri A. P. Sharma.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): The statement annexed in reply to parts (b), (c) and (d) of the Unstarred Question No. 2156—answered on 23rd March, 1979 may kindly be replaced by the annexed statement.

The information earlier furnished in the statement annexed to the reply was based on the TA bills of the officials of this Ministry and on the information received from the other concerned Departments in respect of the officials of those De-