

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उन्होंने मराठवाड़ा विकास परिषद् मंडल की ओर से आये एक शिष्टमंडल को यह आश्वासन दिया था कि उक्त रेलवे लाइन का दुबारा सर्वेक्षण किया जाएगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

Conversion of Miraj-Osmanabad Latur narrow gauge railway line into a broad gauge line

829. SHRI R. D. JAGATAP]
AVERGOANKAR: SHRI DEORAO
PATIL : SHRI KRISHANARAO
NARAYAN DHULAP :J

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme for the conversion of the Miraj-Osmanabad Latur narrow gauge railway line into a broad gauge line;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that he gave an assurance to a delegation which met him on behalf of the Marathwada Vikas Parishad Mandal that a fresh Survey of the said railway line will be undertaken; and

(d) if so, what action has so far been taken by Government in this regard ?]

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शिव नारायण) : (क) से (घ) मिरज-कुर्दवाडी-लाटूर छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के बारे में सर्वेक्षण किये गये हैं। लेकिन धन की तंगी को देखते हुये फिलहाल इस परियोजना

पर काम शुरू करना सम्भव न हो पाएगा। सरकार को इस प्रकार के आश्वासन की कोई जानकारी नहीं है कि इस परियोजना के लिए नए सिरे से सर्वेक्षण शुरू किया जाएगा।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (d) Surveys have been carried out for the conversion of Miraj-Kurduwadi-Latur narrow gauge line into broad gauge. It would, however, not be possible to take up the project at present on account of paucity of funds. The Government are not aware of any assurance regarding taking up of a fresh survey for this project.]

Appointment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Northern Railway

830. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have been provided employment in Northern Railway during the last six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) :

	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
Class III	108	50
Class IV	37	1

Election Commission's proposals regarding electoral reforms

831. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has recently submitted some proposals to Government in regard to the reforms in the electoral system; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NARSINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the detail* of the proposals is attached. [See Appendix CIII, Annexure No. 48],

Rise in the price of drugs

832. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : •Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep rise in the price of certain drugs in spite of the Drug Price Control Order, of 1970 resulting in great hardship to the consumers;

(b) whether the drug manufacturers are required to seek Government's approval to raise the prices of drugs manufactured by them; if so, what criteria, has been laid down by Government for permitting drug manufacturers to raise the prices; and

(c) what steps Government have taken on the proposals of the Hathi Committee for revising the existing pricing formula and giving a boost to the Indian sector of the drug industry?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) and (b)

The prices of drugs are statutorily controlled under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970. Small Scale Units having an annual sale turn over less than Rs. 50 lakhs in formulations are, however, exempt from obtaining price approval for their formulations.

Drug manufacturers are required to seek Government's approval for revision of prices. The Order provides for a mechanism/procedure for fixation/revision of prices of drugs/formulations. The prices of formulations are based upon the total of material cost, conversion cost and packing charges and a mark-up thereof in addition to the excise duty. In the recent past the prices of formulations have been revised only if there was revision either in the material cost or excise duty and that too, after examination by the BICP.

As of date, prices of 98 bulk drugs have been notified by Government under this Order. In respect of other drugs, there have been no revisions and the declared prices of manufacturers are in operation. As and when they ask for revision, such revision as may be admissible will be allowed after due scrutiny.

Prices of following canalised drugs have been revised since 8-1977 due to price in the international market having escalated ;—

- (1) Ampicillin Anhydrous
- (2) Ampicillin Sodium
- (3) Ampicillin Trihydrate
- (4) Chloramphenicol Powder
- (5) Chloroquine Diphosphate
- (6) Indomethacin
- (7) Chloroquine Sulphate
- (8) Cresylic Acid