

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The period upto which the allotments have been made against public booking in four metropolitan cities in respect of Bajaj-150 scooters is given hereunder:—

Name of the city	Period covered upto
Delhi	September, 1970
Bombay	July, 1970
Calcutta	March, 1971
Bangalore	September, 1969

Booking for Priya scooters manufactured by M/s. Maharashtra scooters Ltd. in collaboration with M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd. commenced only in July, 1976. The availability position in respect of this scooter is relatively easier.

(c) No specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Government. No intending purchaser is required to pay for the purchase of the scooter a price exceeding the authorised price.

(d) After the removal of statutory control on distribution and sale of scooters with effect from 1-1-1978, preferential allocation of scooters through special quotas vis-a-vis general public has been given up.

(d) Bajaj makes of scooters have the shaft system. The production of these makes is likely to be of the order of 1,30,000 nos. during 1978-79 compared to about 1,11,700 in 1977-78. An application has been received from the manufacturer for expansion of capacity.

Proposal for conversion of Bangalore-Mysore metre gauge railway line

1311. SHRI H. R. BASAVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has received any proposal from the Ministry of Railways regarding the conversion of the Bangalore-Mysore metre gauge railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission have cleared the proposal; if not what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is total outlay involved in the conversion?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conversion proposal has not so far been approved by the Planning Commission. Within the existing resource constraints, the highest priority is proposed to be given to the expeditious completion of the considerable number of gauge conversion projects and other line capacity works that are already in hand. Currently new projects of gauge conversion are considered only if there is an established case for increasing the capacity and there are no other more economical alternatives. The issue of what policy should be adopted in regard to gauge conversions is also being considered by the recently constituted National Transport Policy Committee.

(c) The (revised) cost of the project is indicated around Rs. 13.83 crores.

Credit requirements of small industries

1312. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at a Conference convened by him at Delhi in June, 1978 some State Ministers of Industries demanded that an All India Financial Corporation be established to meet the credit requirements of small industries in the districts; and

(b) if so, what is Central Government's decision in this regard?