

decision, was laid on the Table of the House after a decision on such reports was taken by the Central Government. The particulars of such cases are given in Appendix II of the First and Second Reports on the Working and Administration of the MRTP Act, 1969 already laid on the Table of the House and the Third Annual Report proposed to be laid on the Table this week.

Rail line upto Sairang in Mizoram

1502. SHRI LALBUAIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have abandoned the proposed construction of Railway line in Mizoram upto Sairang.

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative the progress so far made for its implementation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for a new M.G. line from Lalaghat to Sairang have been sanctioned at the cost of North Eastern Council. Decision for its construction would be taken after the proposed surveys are completed and results thereof become known.

Russian material for underground Rail

1503. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in Hindustan Standard dated the 23rd November, 1974 under the caption 'Russian material for underground rail unlikely;

(b) if so, what is the actual position in this regard;

(c) whether U.S.S.R. originally promised to supply material for import worth over Rs. 40 crores for MTP;

(d) what are the material U.S.S.R. would not supply and what type of items they have refused to supply;

(e) whether as a result thereof the entire work of MTP has come to a standstill; and

(f) whether an offer of Rs. 4 lakhs worth of material for import from West Germany in this connection has been refused by Government and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (f) A statement is attached.

Statement

(a) to (c) The news item referred to mentions the overall scope of the offered Soviet material assistance for the Calcutta underground project. The broad divisions of the scope of assistance mentioned are generally correct, but the actual ratios are given below :

a. Supply agreed to by USSR	17%
b. Supply agreed subject to successful development of Russian equipment in USSR	15%
c. Supply to be discussed with USSR after detailing has been completed	6%
d. Supply not possible from USSR	62%
	<hr/> 100%

It was earlier expected before formally approaching the Soviet Government, that the major portion of the import requirements in equipment and construction material, the USSR should be able to supply. The foreign exchange element of Rs. 23.7 crores estimated in the project report has been roughly revised to Rs. 38.5 crores now due to increase in prices abroad. As a result of several discussions with USSR starting from early 1973, it has, however, been found in June, 1974 when a high powered technical delegation from USSR visited India, that the scope of Soviet material assistance will be considerably falling short of the Project's requirement.

(d) The following types of materials will not be available from USSR :—

26000 tonnes of Structural steel other than sheet piles Rolling stock components	Due to very heavy demand for these items within USSR
Construction plants worth Rs. 3 crores other than tunnel shield and pile hammers	As the plants in use in that country would not be suitable for Calcutta's requirements.