

legal action, will the Government take this into consideration while discussing the proposals of these oil companies pending nationalisation?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE :** Sir, all aspects will be kept in view, nothing will be ruled out before taking a decision in the national interest.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :** Sir, the statement ascribes the failure of supplies to two reasons. First is the difficulty which these suppliers have described in the matter of obtaining sufficient shipping and the second is the question raised by the Basra Petroleum Company regarding the action that they would take if any company exports goods "claimed by them." I would request the Minister to clarify to what extent this shipping difficulty is as a result of any pressures brought to bear upon them by the Basra Oil Company or any other oil combine and what exactly is meant by 'companies exporting goods claimed by them'? Is it the view of the Basra Petroleum Company that the naphtha sought to be exported to us belongs to them?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE :** It is their view, rightly or wrongly. We do not agree. But so far as the shipping part of it is concerned, I would not rule out the possibility that even in the creation of these shipping difficulties, the Basra Oil Company had a hand.

EXTENSION OF B. G. LINES FROM MIRAJ TO GOA AND LONDA TO HOSPET

\*418 **SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :**†

**SHRI C. D. PANDE :**

**SHRI S. D. MISHRA :**

**SHRI BANARSI DAS :**

**SHRI GANESHI LAL CHOU-  
DHARY :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend the broad gauge lines from Miraj to Goa and Londa to Hospet in place of the existing metre gauge lines?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Veerendra Patil.

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) :** Engineering and Traffic Surveys for conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge of Miraj to Mormugao, Londa to Hospet as also Alnavar to Dandeli sections were carried out in 1963-64. Up-dating of the earlier survey reports is at present under consideration. A decision will be taken after the receipt of recommendations of the Study Group set up by the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals to look into the various aspects of the integrated development of Bellary-Hospet iron ore deposits.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** As the hon. Minister has been pleased to say, this work is going on since 1963-64. I would like to know what is the time required to complete these studies and whether there is any likelihood of taking it up during the first year of the Fifth Plan?

**SHRI T. A. PAI :** This is one of the schemes included in the Railways' perspective plans on gauge conversion and I think this section will get priority over most of the other schemes and as part of it, the section from Poona to Miraj has been completed and the rest of the survey is now being upgraded in order to find out the latest developments in the Bellary-Hospet area.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** Is it not a fact that sometime back the M.M.T.C. made a suggestion to the Railway Board to take up conversion of Hospet-Londa-Goa line into broad gauge immediately?

**SHRI T. A. PAI :** Very often conflicting claims like the Hubli-Karwar line are also put up and since they run parallel these are being delayed. This time we propose to take up this question independently to see why this should not be taken up earnestly.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** I only wanted to have a categorical assurance from the Minister whether there is any possibility of taking up this work during the Fifth Plan period.

**SHRI T. A. PAI :** There are reasonable prospects of it being taken up.

**SHRI G. A. APPAN :** May I know from the hon'ble Minister, Sir, whether as an economist and an administrator he would affirm on the floor of the House now itself that taking up a project as a broad gauge line once and for all is far more economical and beneficial to bear good results than first making it metre gauge and then converting it into broad gauge?

**SHRI T. A. PAI :** The hon'ble Member seems to be under some misapprehension. There is already a metre gauge line. The proposal now is to convert this into broad gauge.

**MR CHAIRMAN :** Mr. Kulkarni. Last question.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :** Apart from the other economic reasons, may I know, Sir, whether the Minister will consider the feasibility of taking the Miraj-Goa, and Bangalore-Miraj-Barshi line as additional work for the people in view of drought conditions? On humanitarian grounds would he think of taking up this line?

**SHRI T. A. PAI :** While one-third of the cost of construction of new railway lines and conversion is on account of labour, railway construction as part of famine relief work or drought relief work has to be decided as a matter of policy at the highest level.

#### REPORT OF BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL COSTS ON THE COST-STRUCTURE OF DRUGS

\*419. **SHRI V. B. RAJU :**

**SHRI BRAHMANANDA  
PANDA :**

**SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH  
MUSAFIR :†**

**SHRI J. S. TILAK :**

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :**

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(1) whether Government have received report from the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on the cost structure of 12 basic drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) :** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The report of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on the cost structure of 24 bulk drugs which also include empty hard gelatine capsules has been received. The report is under consideration of Government.

**SHRI J. S. TILAK :** May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of the Nehru versity study report where they have mentioned that the profit ratio of foreign firms is abnormal? Will the Government also consider that survey considering the report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE :** The hon'ble Member referred to the profit ratio. We ourselves are concerned about that and when we go into this report and take a final decision we will certainly bear that in mind.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** I am afraid the report submitted by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and other reports like the report of the Tariff Commission giving higher prices may be accepted as it is because nobody concerned with the manufacturer is ever consulted by the bureaucrats who decide it. Is the Government aware that the technology adopted by the manufacturers of basic drugs, especially, the foreign manufacturers is not passed on to the country and it is because of that that the cost of production is high as compared to the imported drugs? If so, may I know what steps the Government is going to take to reduce the cost and distribute this method of manufacture also to the smaller industrialists where the cost will be less and the employment given will be more?

**SHRI H. R. GOKHALE :** I should not say that categorically because the present technology is used as a matter of historical process here since independence and they have been operating on this technology in

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurumukh Singh Musafir