

(b) the time by when permanent arrangements are likely to be made for the full fledged working of the Divisional Headquarters at Katihar on the North East Frontier Railway ?]

विधि, समाज कल्याण और रेल मंत्री (श्री पी० गोविंद मेनन) : (क) बरौनी-कटिहार मीटर लाइन खण्ड को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के लिए इंजीनियरी अर यातायात सर्वेक्षण प्रगति पर है और इन सर्वेक्षणों के परिणाम मालूम होने के बाद ही इस बदलाव के सम्बन्ध में अंतिम निर्णय किया जायेगा ।

(ख) कटिहार में पूर्वोत्तर सीमा रेलवे का मंडल मुख्यालय पहले से ही काम कर रहा है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) Engineering and Traffic Surveys for the conversion of the Barauni Katihar metre gauge section into broad gauge, are in progress and a final decision regarding this conversion will be taken after the results of the surveys are known.

(b) A divisional Headquarter of the North East Frontier Railway is already functioning at Katihar.]

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION

*323. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the imports have been curbed through import substitution drive launched after devaluation of rupee in 1966;

(b) the names of the commodities in which the drive has brought fruits ;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange saved on account of the drive initiated since 1966; and

(d) the total amount of foreign exchange expected to be saved on this account during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FA-KHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (c) Although it would be difficult to

assess the extent of foreign exchange saved after devaluation of rupee in 1966, in exact terms as a result of the various measures taken in the field of import substitution yet on a very conservative estimate the savings in foreign exchange on this account during the last three years are estimated at about Rs. 100 crores, and this would give a measure of the extent to which imports have been avoided.

(b) Since the programme of import substitution covers the entire gamut of industry, no list of items in which there has been reduction in imports can be drawn up that could completely cover the Import Substitution effort.

(d) While it is difficult to arrive at any accurate estimates of the total amount of foreign exchange expected to be saved on this account during the Fourth Five Year Plan period, it is expected that the saving will progressively go on increasing as more and more items get developed as a result of the import substitution drive.

DECLINE IN GOODS TRAFFIC IN RAILWAYS

*324. SHRI S. D. MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the movement of goods on the railways has lately been decreasing alarmingly on account of increased corrupt practices including pilferage by railway employees and other persons, long delays in transit and inefficiency in the railways with the result that the users are more and more resorting to the use of road transport for quicker and safer transit;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a huge number of goods wagons remain unutilised even in peak periods; if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to bring about improvement in the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) : (a) No, Sir. On the other hand, the revenue earning traffic of the Indian Railways during 1968-69 registered an increase of 8.4 million tonnes over 1967-68. Also during the first seven months of the current year from April to October, 1969 the approximate increase of revenue earning traffic has been 5 million tonne over the corresponding period of 1968.