

give to the continuing machinery the political direction it lacks at present. The Report of the Second UNCTAD is being currently discussed in the Second Committee of the General Assembly and negotiations are taking place regarding the recommendations which the Assembly would make while adopting the Report. The UNCTAD Secretariat has been in touch with the Governments of member states on various questions such as the role of UNCTAD in the Second Development Decade, trade relations between countries having different economic and social systems, general agreement on commodity arrangements, and shipping matters.

It is too early to have a complete picture of the results of the follow-up action taken so far, as much will depend on the General Assembly's recommendations and the results that will be achieved in the forthcoming meetings of the continuing machinery of UNCTAD on the recommendations, resolutions and decisions of the Second Conference.

(b) Information in this regard is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

CONVERSION OF GORAKHPUR GONDA SECTIONS INTO BROAD GAUGE

*309. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under Government's consideration to undertake the conversion of the following meter gauge lines in the Gorakhpur-Gonda section of the North Eastern Railway into broad Gauge :—

(i) Manduadih to Gorakhpur;

(ii) Gonda to Barabanki;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys with a view to determine the cost and justification for the conversion of the M. G. lines from

Varanasi (Manduadih) to Gorakhpur via Bhatni, and Barabanki to Gorakhpur via Gonda (including an additional broad gauge line between Barabanki and Gonda) have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,50,604 and are in progress. A decision on the actual conversion of these metre gauge lines and estimated cost thereof will be known only after the surveys are completed.

*310. [Transferred to the 6th December, 1968.]

SALEM STEEL PLANT

*311. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN :
SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 502 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 1968 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Salem Steel Plant Project is now proposed to be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b) The question of setting up of new steel plant(s) has yet to be considered by the Steering group which has been appointed to formulate the Fourth and Fifth Plan Programme for iron and steel. The Government would be in a position to take a decision about setting up of a steel plant in the Neyveli Salem region only after the recommendations of the Steering Group are available.

EXPORT OF MARINE PRODUCTS†

*147. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been made or is proposed to be made by Government regarding the export potential of marine products ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

†Transferred from the 22nd November, 1968.