

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any suggestions have been received by Railways during track inspection?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Conversion of Narrow Gauge (NG) lines, wherever feasible and Meter Gauge (MG) lines into Broad Gauge (BG) have been taken up by Indian Railways, as a part of Uni-gauge policy in phases, depending on overall availability of funds and relative priority of the route.

At the time of launching of this policy, Indian Railways had 23283 Km MG and 4066 Km NG lines, out of which 18376 Km MG and 1769 Km NG lines have been converted to BG lines till 31.03.2015.

(b) and (c) Railway lines, including the newly converted ones, are opened to passenger traffic only after safety inspection by railway officers and authorization by Commissioner of Railway Safety. The suggestions for improvement received during these inspections are examined and suitable measures are taken for ensuring safety of the passengers.

#### **Train accident in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh**

\*44. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a flatbed truck carrying huge granite monolith crashed through a railway level crossing near Madakasira in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh just as the Bengaluru-Nanded Express train was passing through and rammed the side of the carriage; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that five persons were killed in the said accident, including a legislator of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir. While Train No.16594 Down Bangalore City-Hazur Sahib Nanded Express was on run between Rangepalli and Penukonda Jn. stations in Bangalore-Dharmavaram section of Bangalore Division of South Western Railway, an overloaded road lorry No. AP 16 TT 9885 carrying a heavy stone dashed with it resulting in derailment at Special Class Interlocked manned level crossing No.77 at about 02.15 Hours of 24.08.2015.

(b) Yes, Sir. 5 persons were killed in the said accident including Shri Venkatesh Nayak, a legislator of Karnataka. Out of those killed, 3 were passengers, one was a Railway staff and a 5th person was travelling in the lorry. 2 persons suffered grievous injuries, out of whom one was a passenger and another a contractor's bed role attendant travelling in the train. 2 others suffered simple injuries, out of whom one was a passenger and another a Railway staff.