Bridge) at 01 30 hrs on 17 07 2003 on Bilaspur Division of South East Central Railway

(b) No, Sir

(c) The Joint Inquiry Committee consisting of the Senior Administrative Grade Officers ruled out possibility of over loading as a cause of this accident The exact cause of the derailment could not be conclusively ascertained

(d) Does not arise

Bimlagarh-Talcher and Bolangir-Khorda Road Rail Link

1908 SHRI SURENDRA LATH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the estimated cost of Bimlagarh-Talcher and Bolangir-Khorda Road Rail link project of Orissa;

(b) the money that nas been provided to these projects in the current year Railway Budget, and

(c) the time frame, Government have set for the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) The anticipated costs of Bimlagarh-Talcher and Khurda Road-Bolangir new line projects are Rs 726 96 crore and 700 crore respectively

(b) Outlays provided for Bimlagarh-Talcher and Khurda Road-Bolangir new line projects in the Budget 2004-05 are Rs 5 crore and Rs 15 38 crore respectively

(c) No target dates of completion have yet been fixed

Conversion of Metre Gauge into Broad Gauge

1909 SHRI T T V. DHINAKARAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the length of metre gauge still is use in the country, State-wise;

(b) by when these are proposed to be converted into broad gauge, and

(c) whether Government would give priority to Tamil Nadu in gauge conversion, in view of the neglect the State has been subjected to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The State-wise length (route kilometres) of Metre Gauge Railway line on Indian Railways as on 31.3.2003 (latest available) are given below.—

Name of the State/Union Territory	Route Kilometres (Metre Gauge)
Andhra Pradesh	633.46
Arunachal Pradesh	1.26
Assam	1289.53
Bihar	1074.91
Delhi	21.74
Gujarat	2000.70
Haryana	318.79
Karnataka	520.89
Kerala	116.89
Madhya Pradesh	500.25
Maharashtra	445.25
Manipur	1.35
Mizoram	1.50
Nagaland	1.72
Rajasthan	2783.02
Tamil Nadu	2113.32
Tripura	64 42
Uttar Pradesh	1914.49
Uttaranchal	61.15
West Bengal	487.98
Union Territory	
Pondicherry	11.10
TOTAL	14363.72

Note The remaining States/Union Territories do not have Metre Gauge railway line

(b) The gauge conversion of metre gauge line into broad gauge is in progress on some of the sections. There is at present no plan to convert all the metre gauge lines into broad gauge.

(c) The allotment of funds to various projects are being made on the basis of State-wise formula. The gauge conversion of metre gauge lines in Tamil Nadu is in progress as per the availability of resources.

Construction of over-bridges in Bangalore

1910. SHRI K B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether the Railways have taken up the construction of over-bridges at Banaswadi and Lingarajapuram in Bangalore in collaboration with Bangalore Mahanagar Palika;

(b) if so, the present status of these works, and

(c) whether Government would take steps to expedite these works to ease movement of traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway is constructing Road Over Bridge (ROB) at both locations which include bridge proper over the tracks and approaches.

(b) and (c) Work of foundation and sub-structure on both the Road Over Bridges has been completed and superstructure work is in progress. All efforts are being made by Railway to expedite the ongoing works Both works i.e. Banaswadi ROB and Lingarajapuram ROB are likely to be completed in current financial year.

Proposal for bifurcation of Sambalpur Railway Division

1911   MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR
        SHRI B J. PANDA.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Sambalpur Railway Division in Orissa is proposed to be bifurcated and allocated to different Railway Zones;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof,

(c) whether Government are also aware that bifurcation will result