

**New Railway Lines**

4095. ACHARYA VISHWANATH DAS SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometers of new railway line laid in the country and the kilometers of railway line converted into broad-gauge during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the allocation made for this purpose in the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the above said work for North Eastern Railway covering eastern region of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government propose to lay some new railway lines in this region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the VII Plan, 881 Kms. of new lines and 326 kms. of Gauge Conversion, were completed.

(b) Rs. 900 crores for New lines and Rs. 4500 crores for Traffic facility works, which include doubling, gauge conversion and remodelling of yards.

(c) Allotment to individual Railways are made according to requirements and availability of funds on year to year basis. Funds are allotted to Railways work-wise and not State-wise. The amount earmarked for N.E. Railway during the current year for new lines and Gauge Conversion works is Rs. 22 crores and Rs. 88 crores, respectively.

(d) and (e). No decision in this regard has been taken.

**Central Assistance for School Buildings**

4096. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is provided for construction of school buildings as per New Education Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such assistance has been stopped;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a number of economically backward States have sought such assistance for this purpose;

(f) if so, the details of the proposals submitted by the State Governments particularly by Rajasthan Government; and

(g) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b). The construction of school buildings is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Rural Development, depending on the savings under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) provides financial assistance for construction of school buildings under Operation Blackboard scheme. The cost of construction is shared by the Ministry of Rural Development and State Govt. in the ratio of 48% and 52% respectively.

(c) No. Sir.