Natural Calamities

*637. SHRI PRABHAU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to give advance information of natural calamities to the fishermen ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to save fishermen from natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whether warnings for adverse weather like cyclones, strong winds, squally weather, gales and state of the sea are issued by India Meteorological Department through its six Cyclone Warning Centers established on the east and west coasts of India. These warnings are broadcast in local languages through All India Radio Stations of the maritime States several times a day. Additionally, adverse weather warnings are provided to Fisheries Department. Adverse weather signals are also hoisted by the Port authorities.

(c) Does not arise, Sir.

Suburban Railway

*638. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 116 branch routes of the Suburban Railway are unviable;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways have suffered a loss of Rupees 123.04 crores during 1991-92 on account of these routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to save the Railways form such losses; and

(e) the extent to which these losses are likely to be minimized as a result of the above action during 1993-94 and 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). There were 116 branch lines on Indian Railways which were found unviable during 1991-92.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is attached.

(e) While a number of steps such as deployment of minimum staff and equipment have been taken to minimise the operating losses, it is not possible to quantify in absolute terms the extent to which the losses would be minimised in 1993-94 and 1994-95.