

(c) the details of various programmes to improve environment in the coal mine areas in Damodar-Barakar Basin;

(d) whether these programmes are running efficiently; and

(e) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir, financial assistance has been provided by National Wasteland Development Board to demonstrate and assess available technology on pilot scale in coal mines of Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) The following projects have been launched

(1) Demonstration project on Reclamation of mined lands of

(i) Jharia Coal Field, District, Dhanbad, Bihar

(ii) Ranigunje Field, District Burdwan, West Bengal. An Amount of Rs. 66.48 lakhs has been sanctioned for five years to treat 500 ha primarily through afforestation and soil and Water conservation measures and Rs. 13.62 lakhs has been released during 1990-91.

(2) Reclamation of Mined Wastelands in Ranigunje Coal Field area at 6 sites in the districts of Dhanbad Bihar and Burdwan West Bengal through Plantation of appropriate tree species and increase of water regime. An amount of Rs. 22.72 lakh has been sanctioned to treat 195 ha while Rs. 11.15 lakh has been released during 1991-92

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects, an area of 3.17 lakh ha been treated since Third Five Year Plan and till 1991-92 and for which central assistance of Rs. 30.94 crores has been utilised. The primary thrust of the Scheme is to prevent premature siltation of the reservoirs while stabilising and improving productive potential of the degraded catchment area.

(d) and (e). The projects launched by National Wastelands Development Board are in the initial stage and their effectiveness will be known after sometime. But areas treated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in River Valley Catchment of Damodar Barakar have already shown positive results in reducing the silt inflow from the tested watersheds and fall in sediment production into reservoirs under Damodar Valley Corporation.

Compensation for Acquisition of Land

9065. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have acquired land for construction of Diva-Vasai, Apta-Roha, Karjat- Lonawala (Third Line) and Igatpuri-Kasara (Third line) railway lines but have not paid compensation to all the farmers for acquisition of their lands;

(b) if so, the reason thereof;

(c) the time by which the Government propose to pay the compensation to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Acquisition of land for Railway Projects and payment thereof is done by the State Government. As required under the Rules, the amount of compensation to the paid for land acquired has already been placed at the disposal of revenue authorities of the State Government by the Railways. It is the responsibility of the State Government to make payment to the people whose land has been acquired.

Conversion of Santipur-Nabadwipghat Railway line

9066. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey of santipur-Nambadwipghat (NG) railway line for its conversion into broad-gauge; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Survey for conversion of Santipur-Nabadwipghat (NG) section into BG has been taken up. Taking up of the line for conversion will depend upon the results of the survey.

[*Translation*]

Use of Hindi

9067. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of meetings organised by the Hindi Advisory committee since May, 1989;

(b) whether 'Hindi Day' or 'Hindi Week' was observed every year;

(c) the number of awards given for the excellent work in Hindi Language and the names of the persons awarded;

(d) whether the standard of Hindi Language in Railways has deteriorated; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The meetings of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti were held on 7th June, 1989 and 3rd Oct., 1989 since May, 1989.

(b) Hindi Day/Week is observed on all Zonal Railways every year but the same at all India level is held along with the meeting of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti. As the re-constitution of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti was in process, the Hindi Week at all India level could not be observed for the last two years.

(c) Several awards have been given for the excellent work in Hindi Language at Zonal as well as Railway Board level. The names of awardees are being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Some of the steps are as under:-

(i) Training is imparted to the officers and staff;

(ii) Workshops are organised from time to time;

(iii) Incentives are given in the form of awards.