

(b) whether Central assistance is being extended to various States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States where mushroom cultivation has been under taken during the Eighth Plan;

(e) the States where mushroom cultivation is proposed to be extended during 1996-97; and

(f) the details of the steps being taken in this regard in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation with a total outlay of Rs. 15.68 crores during the current Plan. The components of the Scheme are setting up of 36 Spawn production units (@ Rs. 11.5 lakh per unit); 35 pasteurised compost units (@ Rs. 28.5 lakhs per unit) and providing training to 27,200 farmers to promote mushroom production in different States.

(d) The States/Union Territories where mushroom production is reported to be underway during Eighth Plan are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) All the States listed under '(d)' above.

(f) The State of Orissa has been allocated a sum of Rs. 43.60 lakhs for setting up of one Spawn production one pasteurised compost unit and training of 600 farmers.

#### Conversion of Coach into Saloon

3120. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coach No. 6268 has been converted into a saloon in Ratlam Division of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the authority under which conversion was done alongwith the expenditure incurred on the same;

(d) the per day loss of the earnings by withdrawal of the said Coach; and

(e) whether any other Coach has been provided in the said train as a replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). One composite first-cum-second class coach built 22 years ago has since been converted into a mobile training-cum-inspection car for imparting training to staff at road side stations and for inspection.

(c) Conversion was made by divisional authorities at a cost of about Rs. 50,000/-.

(d) Such data for individual coach is not available.

(e) No, Sir. This composite coach was running by passenger trains. Railways have as a policy, stopped manufacturing first class (full and composite) coaches and therefore the existing ones from passenger and Mail/Express trains are being withdrawn gradually.

#### Rail Lines in Kerala

3121. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing rail lines in Kerala are as old as fifty years and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to modernise the rail lines in order to make them safe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Electrification of Railway Routes

3122. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail routes likely to be electrified during the current year, State-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the rail electrification work in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The rail routes/sections of railways likely to be electrified during the current year i.e. by 31.03.1997 are as under :

Section	Route Kilometre	Railway Zone	State
1	2	3	4
1. Tori-Patratu-Chainpur (Part of Sonnagar-Patratu and Gumia-Patratu)	101	Eastern	Bihar
2. Mandi Govindgarh-Ludhiana (Part of Delhi-Ambala-Ludhiana)	46	Northern	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur (Part of Erode-Ernakulam)	72	Southern	Kerala
4. Karkend-Jamadoba (Part of Jamadoba-Mohuda)	08	South Eastern	West Bengal
5. Bondamunda-Barsuan/ Kiriburu	105	South Eastern	Orissa Bihar

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhimadolu-Nidadavolu- Rajahmundry and Samalkot-Annavaram- Anakapalli (Part of Vijayawada- Vishakhapatnam)	179 South Central	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Jamtara-Jhajha-Jamui (Part of Sitarampur- Mughalsarai)	146 Eastern	Bihar

(b) In the State of Kerala the electrification work is in progress on section Walayar-Ernakulam including Cochin Harbour Terminus. The section Walayar-Shoranur is likely to be electrified by 31.03.1997 and it is planned to complete electrification of the entire section by 31.03.1998 provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

#### Rail Link in Andhra Pradesh

3123. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether surveys have been conducted to establish a rail-link between Pathancheru-Sangareddi-Medak-Siddipet towns in the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of surveys conducted so far;

(c) whether in a survey conducted recently, it has been decided to connect these towns and Andhra Pradesh by the rail; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof and the time expected to be taken for finalisation of the project work as well as completion of the job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An updating of survey for a new broad gauge line from Patancheru to Akanapet via Sangareddi and Medak was conducted by South Central Railway in 1994. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of the 102 kms. long line as Rs. 130.74 crores and the project has been found to be unremunerative. Two surveys have so far been conducted for the suggested line, i.e. in 1981 and 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Autonomy to States

3124. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are demands from some States of the country for giving more autonomy to them;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to follow a uniform policy in this regard in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The Minimum Programme of the Government refers to a new articulation of 'States rights' and seeks to strengthen the forces of political federalism with a strong Centre, strong States and viable local bodies. The document states that the Government will advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism and effect devolution of powers and decentralisation of authority. For this purpose, the Government intends to pursue a two-track policy. On the first track, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on which there is already a broad consensus, will be implemented through legislation and administrative action as appropriate. On the second track, the Government proposes to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and also to look into the vital question of devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

3125. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is in force;

(b) since when this Act came into force first time. State-wise;

(c) the reasons for keeping the same in force;

(d) whether continuation of this Act has been reviewed from time to time; and

(e) if so, when such a review had been last made. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Armed forces (Special Powers) Act is presently promulgated in the following States :

1. Assam
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram
5. Meghalaya
6. Arunachal Pradesh
7. Tripura
8. Punjab
9. Chandigarh UT
10. Jammu and Kashmir