

cerning the State Governments and the Central Government. All these recommendations have been accepted by the Government, 15 recommendations concerning the States have already been communicated to them for implementation. Out of 28 recommendations concerning the Central Government, 15 recommendations have already been implemented. Steps have been initiated for implementation of the remaining 13 recommendations.

Translation]

Conversion of Parasias-Chhindwara Line into Broad Gauge

5890. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the conversion of Parasias-Chhindwara narrow gauge line into a broad gauge line ;

(b) if so, whether a survey has been conducted thereof ; and

(c) the time by which construction work on this rail line is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) A survey for conversion of Parasias-Chhindwara N.G. line into B.G. was carried out in 1981-82. The project has not been cleared by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Steps to prevent Blindness among Children

5891. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 1 lakh children are losing their eyesights in the country every year ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and proposed to be taken to prevent blindness among children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) No survey has been conducted by the Government to determine the number of children who are losing eyesight in the country every year. As per I.C.M.R. sample survey report (1972-73), out of the total of 9 million blind population in the country, 2% are due to deficiency of vitamin 'A', which is one of the important causes of blindness among children

(b) To prevent blindness among children, a scheme has been undertaken under M.C.H. programme to cover the children of 1-5 years age group with two lakh international units of vitamin 'A' solution orally every six months. Vitamin 'A' solution is distributed through PHCs, sub-centres with special preference to the children living in tribal blocks, drought prone areas, other backward areas, ICDS blocks and urban slums etc. The targets and achievements under the scheme during the last three years are as under :—

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Targets :	25.00	25.00	27.00 @
Achievements :	19.09	16.94	21.00

(upto Feb. 85)

(@ figures in million)

In addition, efforts are being made to educate the public about intake of vitamin 'A' rich foods with their regular diet.

Ganga flood Control Board

5892. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga Flood Control Board is functioning with Headquarters at Patna (Bihar) ; and

(b) if so, what are its functions, and what steps have been taken especially for the benefit of the people in Ganga-Diara Area in the State of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Board lays down the board policies and decides priorities in the implementation of the various flood control schemes in the Ganga basin.

The Central Ground Water Board undertook a study on the integrated farm development in Diara areas of Monghyr Sadar and Jamalpur Blocks in Bihar and their report was sent to the State Government in 1980 for taking further action. A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, was constituted by the Government of Bihar in April 1984 to consider the problem in Taufir Tikarampur Diara and neighbouring areas in Monghyr district. The Report of this Committee has been submitted to the State Government in January 1985.

Additional Booking Counters at Ahmadpur Station

5893. **SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :** Will the Ministry of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry are aware of the abrupt closure of additional booking Counters at Ahmadpur Station since the 3rd January, 1985 ;

(b) whether keeping in view the public/passengers interests, Government would review the decision to open the counters on the basis of report of enquiry about the closure and its resultant consequences ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Booking facilities are provided at stations according to the pres-

cribed yardsticks depending upon the quantum of traffic. According to the prescribed yardstick for provision of booking counters, one booking counter has been found to be adequate to cater the requirement of existing traffic at Ahmadpur. In view of this an additional counter which was functioning earlier was not found justified and was, therefore, closed down.

Doubling of Rail Line from Khana to Sainthia

5894. **SHRI GADHADHAR SAHA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Railway line from Khana Junction to Sainthia under consideration for improvement of train services ; and

(b) if not, the reason therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, augmentation of sectional capacity between Khana and Sainthia has been taken up and it is in progress.

Train Facilities between Bhubaneswar and Bombay

5895. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the train facilities existing at present between Bhubaneswar and Bombay are not satisfactory ;

(b) whether Government of Orissa have requested his Ministry to provide better train journey facilities between Bhubaneswar and Bombay ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.