

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have approved the said project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (e). The required information is being collected.

Gauge Conversion from Notanava to Sonoli

2818. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the North Eastern Railway have conducted any survey to lay a new broad-gauge rail line from Notanava to Sonoli and to lay metre-gauge rail line from ghughuli to Maharajganj; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon and the time by which the work is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C.LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project for construction of new line from Nautanwa to Sonauli could not be considered owing to its unremunerative nature as revealed by the survey and constraint of resources. Survey for a new line from Ghughuli to Maharajganj is in progress. Further action will depend on the results of the survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

[English]

Retention of Seeds

2819. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI S. B. SINDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a legislation to guarantee the the farmers the right to retain seeds from one crop to another;

(b) if so, the extent to which this legislation will help the farmers;

(c) the time by which the said legislation is likely to be introduced;

(d) the efforts being made to implement the proposed legislation;and

(e) whether the provisions of the draft relating to agriculture subsidies patent rights and imports of farm product would affect India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). The draft legislation which is under preparation seeks to stimulate quality seed production and preserve the traditional rights of the farmers to save, use, exchange, share and sell seeds on a non-commercial basis.

(c) and (d). The proposed law will be introduced after completion of due procedures required for the same.