

*[English]***Gauge Conversion**

4071. DR. ASIM BALA . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal for broad gauge conversion of Shantipur-Nabadwip Ghat rail link, and  
 (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. JAFFER SHARIEF) . (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Education Ministers' Conference**

4072 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM .  
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR .  
 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether one day conference of Education Ministers of States was held recently;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof;  
 (c) whether the Government have taken any step to formulate a working plan in consultation with the various State Governments and private educational institutions, and  
 (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) . (a) and (b) Yes, Sir A conference of Education Ministers of States/UTs was held at New Delhi on April 4, 1995 to discuss various aspects of Elementary Education programmes including the problem of dropout, resource mobilisation, decentralization of management, implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Operation Blackboard, Non-Formal Education and District Institutes of Education and Training and School Nutrition Programme.

(c) and (d). It was jointly decided to formulate area-specific and category-specific action plans to increase enrolment and reduce drop out, particularly among girls and disadvantaged sections, to extend strong support to decentralisation of educational management, to sort out systemic problems affecting the implementation of Operation Blackboard (OB), Non-Formal Education (NFE) and District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), to prepare time-bound action plan for Operationalising DIETs before the next academic year to explore possibilities of using satellite transponder for teacher training, to widely disseminate

information on tax concessions extended to contributions to Zilla Sakasharata Samitis for primary and adult education, to organise Pension Adalats to settle pension problems of teachers expeditiously, to make more systematic arrangements for monitoring and evaluation and to prepare a special package on education for the North-East within the existing schemes

*[English]***Coal Wagons**

4073. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the coal wagons allotted to Maharashtra are inadequate to meet the requirement of the State,  
 (b) whether the Government would cope up with the requirement of wagons for coal for the industries of Maharashtra, and  
 (c) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Railways have withdrawn all ceiling limits for movement of coal to industries and State Governments have been advised to sponsor the programme according to the requirement of the industries

**Intercity Trains**

4074. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY . Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the routes on which Intercity/sub-urban trains are running in Tamil Nadu;  
 (b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of such trains and particularly on the routes linked with major agricultural production markets during harvesting time;  
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Mail/Express trains including intercity trains are not planned State-wise. However, the routes on which intercity services are available in Tamil Nadu include :

- (i) Madras-Jolarpettal-Coimbatore
- (ii) Madras-Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai
- (iii) Madras-Thanjavur/Tiruchchirappalli

Suburban EMU trains in Madras area are available on:

- Madras Central-Gummidipundi  
 Madras Central-Arakkonam-Tiruttani  
 Madras Central-Tambaram-Chengalpattu sections.