

1	2
14. Rajmash	: Malviya Rajmash-137, HPR-35.
15. Sugarcane	: Co 86032, Co 87025, Co 87044, Co 87263, Co 87268.
16. Cotton	: SVPR 1, LK 861, L 381, LRK 516, RST 9, CICR HHL, Mech 4, NHH 390, CAHH 468, TM 1312, JKHYZ, CICR HH2.
17. Tobacco	: 1. FCV Tobacco: Gauthami, Vrigina 1158 Tabacco Natu, Natu Special. 2. Chewing Tobacco: Meenakshi, Vaishali Special.

[Translation]

#### Felling of Trees

88. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban felling of trees and impose stern punishment in case of violation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal/indiscriminate felling of trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The felling of trees is controlled under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Government legislations, which prescribe the penalties for illegal felling. Offenders are prosecuted under the relevant law. State Governments also take suitable precautionary measures by way of intensive patrolling and peoples' participation in Forest Protection Committees.

#### Chhitauni-Bagaha Bridge

89. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the construction work of Chhitauni-Bagaha railway bridge over river Gandak under the North Eastern Railway is likely to be completed;

(b) whether the gauge conversion of the said line is likely to be completed during this period;

(c) the amounts contributed by the concerned State Government and other institutions; and

(d) the time by which the outstanding amount of their contribution is likely to be paid by them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) By 31.12.96 provided the other participating co-sharers viz., Ministry of Water Resources, Government of U.P. and Bihar release their share of funds.

(b) The line is being constructed as a BG line.

Connecting MG lines from Valmikinagar to Narkatiaganj and Khadda to Gorakhpur are proposed to be converted subject to availability of resources.

(c) Ministry of Water Resources, Governments of U.P. and Bihar have so far deposited amounts of Rs. 7.10 crores out of Rs. 29.63 crores, 10.50 crores out of 32.12 crores and 12.97 crores out of 26.20 crores respectively.

(d) The other co-sharers are being frequently pursued at the highest level to pay their dues as per agreed programme but they have not been forthcoming. They are required to pay their entire shares by 31.3.96.

[English]

#### Navjeevan Express

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to extend Navjeevan Express upto Hapa (Jamnagar) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

#### Assistance to Small Farmers

91. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to stop the assistance being provided to small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this matter was raised in the Conference of the Chief Ministers held in Delhi during 1994; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the suggestions made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) No Chief Minister Conference on Agriculture was held during 1994. However, in the Chief Ministers Conference held on 5th March, 1993 some of the States raised the issue for continuation of the scheme for Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and thereby a proposal has been made for continuation of this scheme during the remaining period of 8th Plan to complete the incomplete works.

#### Extension of Sangam Express

92. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend Sangam Express upto Varanasi in view of the public demand;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to attach an AC second class coach in the said train; and

(c) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) One AC 2 Tier coach is already running by Sangam Express on daily basis.

[English]

### Social Statistics

93. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Statistics has taken fresh initiatives for improving the coverage and quality of social statistics; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) and (b) To make available time series data on various indicators on different areas of social concerns, a regular publication entitled "Selected Socio-Economic Indicators for India" is being brought out from 1987. Latest issue of the publication pertains to 1992. The number of indicators included in publication had increased from 46 in 1987 to 74 in 1992.

In view of the increasing importance of gender specific statistics, within the realm of social statistics, a project on the development of such statistics was undertaken by the Department of Statistics in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), in implementation of which a National Workshop on Improvement of Statistics on Gender Issues was organised during April 28-29, 1994 to ensure interaction between users and producers of data on different gender issues. The workshop identified key gender issues specific to India and the statistical indicators on which time series data need to be collected.

The National Sample Survey Organisation under the Department of Statistics regularly collects data on employment-unemployment, literacy, housing conditions etc., in their socio-economic surveys. Initiatives had been also taken to collect information on newer areas of concerns e.g., gender issues, problems of weaker sections, ageing, maternal and child health, etc.

### Indian Forest Act, 1927

94. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated countrywide consultations to finalise the draft of a legislation to replace the Indian Forest Act, 1927;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be finalised;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments would be taken into consideration before finalisation of the legislation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several non-governmental organisations have opposed the proposed Forest Bill;

(f) if so, the apprehensions raised by these non-governmental organisations; and

(g) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (g) A draft of a legislation to replace the Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for their views. Their views would be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the draft. Consultations have also been initiated with non-governmental organisations whose views would also be taken into consideration. Some non-governmental organisations have differed with some of the provisions and have emphasized that there must be adequate provision to ensure the participation of local people, particularly tribals, in forestry.

### Night Train Between Lucknow and Kanpur

95. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of hardships encountered by the commuters for not having night train service between Lucknow and Kanpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing such train (after 5063 UP from Lucknow at 20.55 hrs.) on the route; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No such hardships have come to the notice of the Government as there is not much regular commuter traffic between Lucknow and Kanpur after 2055 hrs.

(b) Neither commercially justified due to lack of traffic nor feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### White Revolution in Gujarat

96. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to white revolution, animal husbandry and fisheries being implemented in Gujarat;

(b) the amount of allocation made during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the targets fixed and actually achieved in respect of these schemes during the said period?