

Enterprises held seminars early this year in 3 cities for promoting their technology through Indian counterparts. This programme was facilitated through United States Agency for International Development.

### Prawn Project

5898. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa is going ahead with the construction of the World Bank Funded Prawn Project at Jagatjore Banpada area in Kendrapada district in Orissa violating both the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Coastal Regulation Zone notification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been instituted to look into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

### Unreserved Compartments

5899. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fully unreserved trains proposed to be introduced in near future; and

(b) the details of the routes and the time by which such trains proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) 4 pairs.

(b) On Amritsar-Saharanpur-Barauni (bi-weekly), Bhagalpur-Muzaffarpur, Puri-Vizianagaram-Raipur-Ahmedabad (weekly) and Surat-Varanasi (bi-weekly) from July'95 Time Table.

### Gauge Conversion

5900. SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total kilometre of gauge conversion from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge completed during the financial year 1994-95 alongwith investment made in this area, State-wise; and

(b) the projects taken in hand for gauge conversion, Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge during the financial year 1995-96, State-wise and zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : A total of 1805 kms. of MG/NG lines were converted into Broad Gauge during 1994-95 and an amount of Rs. 1265.91 crs. were invested on gauge conversion. Railways do not maintain information State-wise.

(b) The following new Gauge Conversion works have been included in the Budget 1995-96 :

Name of the Section	Zone/Rly.
1. Agra-Bandikui	Western
2. Gandhidham-Bhuj	Western
3. Wankaner-Maliya-Miyana	Western
4. Mathura-Achnera	North Eastern
5. Narakatiaganj-Bagaha-Valmikinagar	North Eastern
6. Khadda-Gorakhpur	North Eastern
7. Mysore-Hasan	Southern
8. Yashwantpur-Salem	Southern
9. Trichy-Nagore-Karaikal	Southern
10. Rupsa-Bangriposi	South Eastern
11. Luni-Jodhpur	Northern

### Female Infanticides

5901. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether female infanticides is in vogue in several States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action is being taken against the guilty persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) The evil practice of female infanticide is reportedly practised amongst a few communities in certain parts of the country like Salem district in Tamil Nadu, Sitamarhi, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Katihar districts in Bihar etc.

(b) Poverty and social attitudes are the main reasons for the prevalence of the practice of female infanticide. There is a very high level of son preference resulting from the low status of women, and the increasing cost of various ceremonies relating to various events in a girl's life such as ear boring, celebration of attainment of puberty, marriage, birth of first child etc.

(c) to (e). Infanticide is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. The persons found involved in such acts are proceeded against as per law.