

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Crop Insurance Scheme in place of existing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which new scheme is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the existing scheme is limited to the few crops considering Tehsil as a unit;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review the existing scheme to bring all crops under the scheme by taking villages as a unit;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether reimbursement under the existing scheme has been reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) and (f). A proposal to modify the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under consideration of the Government. Details are being worked out in consultation with all concerned.

(d) Existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covers wheat, paddy, millets, pulses and oilseeds crops. It operates in a defined area for each crop-as notified by the State Crop Insurance Committee. Defined area may be a district/tehsil/taluka/block or other contiguous area depending upon whether State Government/Union Territory has adequate yield data and has the capability to conduct the required minimum number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) in each notified area/crop at the end of every season.

(g) and (h). Due to heavy losses incurred in the initial years, the sum insured was reduced from 150% to 100% of crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- with effect from Kharif 1988.

Railway Projects

1202. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target achieved with regard to gauge conversion, doubling and electrification of railway lines, zone-wise;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of electrification of Railway line between Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam to Kharagpur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER

SHARIEF): (a) and (b) In 1993-94, the performance with regard to gauge conversion, doubling and electrification exceeded the targets as given below:

Zone/Rly	GAUGE CONVERSION	
	Target/Kms	Achievement/ Kms
Central	42	42
Eastern	Nil	Nil
Northern	427	436
North Eastern	215	220
Northeast Frontier	181	181
Southern	258	263
South Central	332	332
South Eastern	82	82
Western	63	63
Total	1600	1619

DOUBLING

Central	47	63
Eastern	17	26
Northern	16	24
North Eastern	Nil	Nil
Northeast Frontier	8	8
Southern	14	14
South Central	44	55
South Eastern	92	92
Western	12	13
Total	250	295

ELECTRIFICATION

Central	136	136
Eastern	69	69
Northern	34	34
Southern	13	13
South Eastern	214	219
South Central	11	11
Western	23	23
Total	500	505

(c) The electrification works on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 97.

It is proposed to electrify Kharagpur-Visakhapatnam section in two phases:

Phase-I Kharagpur-Bhubneswar/Khurda Road. The work of electrification of Phase-I is proposed to be taken up during the year 1995-96.

Phase-II Bhubneswar/Khurda Road-Visakhapatnam Electrification of Phase-II Bhubneswar-Khurda Road is not yet programmed.