

9. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 2-E at Jamai Osmanla.
10. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 55 between Manchirial-Peddampet.
11. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 59-A at Kazipet yard.
12. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 116 at Ghatkesar.
13. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 28-E at Fatehnagar.
14. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 30-B at Zaheerabad.
15. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing No. 252 at Ramakrishnapuram Gate.
16. Widening of Oliphanta Bridge at Secunderabad (Road Underbridge).
17. Widening of Road underbridge No. 25 near Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.
18. Road overbridge in lieu of level crossing at Visakhapatnam Station.

(c) Railway constructs the bridge across the track and the State Government constructs the approaches. Railway complete their portion of work either before or alongwith completion of work on approaches. Regular efforts are made to get the work progressed by the State.

The total estimated expenditure on these works is Rs. 84.54 crores of which Railway's share is Rs. 32.94 crores and that of the State Government Rs. 51.60 crores.

Stagnation in Food Production

6861. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether lack of underground water charging and want of top soil management coupled with large scale deforestation are the main reasons for the stagnation of food production in the country; and

(b) if so, the measures the Union Government propose to prevent deforestation, charging the underground water table and top soil management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). Food production in the country is not stagnant. However, the stagnation in foodgrain production is likely in areas where lack of underground water recharge and top soil management coupled with de-forestation are acute problems. Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its various research institute is engaged in

developing appropriate technologies and strategies to improve in recharging of ground water and top soil management practices.

Union Ministry of Agriculture have taken up important programmes such as :

- (i) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP).
- (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR) in 29 and 10 catchments respectively spread in 19 States with a view to help in conservation of soil and moisture. The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas is being implemented in all the 25 States and 2 Union Territories namely Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the objectives to improve the recharge of ground water. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development projects and area oriented Fuelwood and Fodder projects of the Ministry of Environment and Forests are also aiming at improving the ground water table and conservation of soil.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

6862. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are according less priority to the gauge conversion work i.e. from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

6863. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karur-Dindugal-Madurai-Tuticorin Broad Gauge Project has been commissioned;

(b) whether there is a delay in conversion of Broad Gauge Line; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The work was completed in 1992-93.