

### Foodgrains

6897. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the per hectare foodgrains production in India stood at 1.6 tonnes as against the world average of 2.5 tonnes;

(b) whether the production level can be enhanced to 4 tonnes per hectare with the application of space and Biotechnology;

(c) if so, whether any plans are contemplated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Per hectare foodgrains production in India has been estimated at about 1.7 tonnes as against the corresponding world average of 2.5 tonnes as per FAO production year book 1993.

(b) The production levels of foodgrains per hectare are not expected to rise to a level of 4 tonnes as national average immediately through the use of space and Biotechnology. However, the bio-technological tools are being utilised for increasing the productivity of foodgrains in the country.

(c) and (d). To increase the production and productivity of foodgrains per unit area and time a number of crop oriented Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored scheme are being implemented to give thrust through cropping system approach.

[Translation]

### Gauge Conversion

6898. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of work in respect of gauge conversion of Mehsana-Viramgam, Mehsana-Ahmedabad and Mehsana-Marwar Railway Lines completed till April 1995; and

(b) the details of the progress made so far in each such section?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The details of the progress made in respect of gauge conversion till April, 1995 of the following sections are as under :

Sections	Progress(%)	Remarks
Mehsana-Viramgam	Nil	This work is proposed to be done under BOLT scheme. Bids have been invited.
Mehsana-Ahmedabad	90%	Physical gauge conversion work in the section has

been completed in 1994-95. Residual works are in progress.

Mehasana-Marwar 10% Earthwork, Ballast supply and Bridge strengthening started.

[English]

### Gauge Conversion

6899. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has submitted some proposals for Gauge Conversion in the State.

(b) if so, the details of the proposal approved for implementation; and

(c) the progress made in allocation of funds for implementation of these approved proposals?

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

(b) and (c). The details are as under :

Name of Project	Expenditure (upto 31.3.95) (Rs. in Crores)	Outlay 1995-96	Progress
1. Parbhani-Mudkhed Adilabad (246 kms.)	55.12	37.00	
(i) Parbhani- Purna (29 kms.)			Completed.
(ii) Purna-Nanded (32 kms.)			Completed.
(iii) Nanded-Mudkhed (23 kms.)			1995-96
(iv) Mudkhed-Adilabad (162 kms.)			1996-97
2. Gondia-Chanda Fort (242 kms.)	78.10	34.00	
(i) Gondia-Wadsa (104 kms.)			Completed.
(ii) Wadsa-Chanda Fort (138 kms.)			1996-97
3. Solapur-Bijapur-Gadag (300 kms.)	00.20	05.00	Approval of the Planning Commission to the
4. Miraj-Latur (359 kms.)	00.50	10.00	Project has been received. Preliminary arrangements for taking up the work are on hand.
5. Daund-Baramati (42 kms.)	16.16	00.52	Completed.