

Patna districts near Bakhtyarpur of Fatuha has been received by the Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

**Genetic defects in human beings and animals due to MIC**

2670. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether contrary to earlier expectations plants and vegetables have been found to have undergone genetic changes in Bhopal as the result of the outbreak of the methyl isocyanate gas and that the soil too has become toxic ;

(b) whether Government have advised the people of Bhopal accordingly and instructed them what they should do ; and

(c) whether genetic defects have also started to manifest in human beings and animals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) According to the observations made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research team of Scientists in Bhopal, there was no visible sign of mutation in the surviving crop of vegetables. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research team in Bhopal noted that the crops were growing normally in the affected areas and there appears to be no toxic effect left in the soil.

(b) The team of Indian Council of Agricultural Research Scientists advised the farmers to strictly avoid consumption of the affected plants and animals as a precautionary measure.

(c) There has so far been no conclusive information on the mutagenic effect of MIC on the surviving animals in the affected areas, but the scientists have emphasised monitoring short and long range studies for any mutagenic effects that may arise in course of time.

**Construction of Kansa-Bhildi rail line**

2671. SHRI PUNAM CHAND MITHA-BHAI VANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a long standing demand for construction of Kansa-Bhildi railway line on the Rajkot Division of the Western Railway ;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted or is likely to be conducted ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether any representations from V.I.P.s., organisations and Chambers of Commerce have been received in this connection as the people of North Gujarat have to travel about 200/250 kilometres to reach Rajasthan for want of this line ; and

(e) if so, what concrete steps have been taken in this regard ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Representations have been received for the construction of Kansa-Bhildi Railway line.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) References have been received from M.Ps. for this line.

(e) The present severe resources constraint does not permit consideration of the proposal.

**Running direct express trains from Kanyakumari to other important places**

2672. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce more direct express trains from Kanyakumari to other important places of the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?