

started;

(b) if so, what is the overall progress; and

(c) what is the target date of completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 3%.

(c) Target date for its completion has not yet been fixed.

Action Against Union Bank of India Officials

1402. SHRI SAMBHAJIRAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently some senior officials of the Union Bank of India have been asked to proceed on leave immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said orders have been complied with the concerned officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Union Bank of India has reported that no senior officer employee of the bank has recently been asked to proceed on leave immediately.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Revival of Tea Gardens in U.P.

1403. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have formulated any scheme in cooperation with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to revive old tea gardens and to plant new tea gardens in the hill areas of the State;

(b) if so, the total amount spent thereon and the number of tea gardens so revived during the last one year;

(c) whether Union Government are providing special assistance to the State Government for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Two sub-groups with representatives of Tea Board, Govt. of UP and others have been constituted to prepare a comprehensive project report for revitalising existing tea gardens in Dehra Dun and Kumaon regions. During the financial year 1988-89 a sum of Rs. 1.98 lakhs has been disbursed to the tea estates in UP under the development grant. Besides a sum of Rs. 9.50 lakhs has also been sanctioned during the year for undertaking an indepth study for establishing new units and for preparing rehabilitation schemes for 6 existing tea estates in the State for submission of financial institutions.

Promotional Avenues for Grade 'B' Officers in Railways

1404. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum was

presented to him by the grade 'B' officers in the Departments of Railways for better service conditions and promotional avenues:

(b) if so, when the memorandum to this effect was presented;

(c) whether instructions for improving promotional avenues in regard to grade 'B' officers have been issued; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard and by what time instructions to this effect will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. Memoranda were presented by the Indian Railway Class-II Officers' Federation in the months of February and April, 1988. The points raised in these memoranda, including the issue of promotion of Group 'B' officers, were examined and the position in this regard was advised to the Federation.

(c) and (d). Instructions already exist regarding the percentage of vacancies in Group 'A' to be filled in by promotion of Group 'B' officers to Group 'A'.

**Ramnagar-Marchula-Bhikiasen-
Chaukhutia Railway Line**

1405. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have issued order to conduct a survey for constructing Ramnagar-Marchula-Bhikiasen-Chaukhutia railway line; and

(b) if so, amount proposed to be spent thereon during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 5 lakhs.

**Direct Payment to Beneficiaries Under
IRDP**

1406. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of development blocks alongwith their respective districts and States where direct payment is being made to the beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP);

(b) whether Government propose to widen the arrangements for direct payment; and

(c) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Scheme of disbursement of subsidy and loan in cash under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is operative presently in 22 selected blocks on an experimental basis. The list of these blocks is given in the Statement below.

(b) and (c). The extension of this scheme to a few more development blocks is likely to become operational very shortly.