

(v) Organisation of a National Science Exhibition for children every year.

Science exhibitions not only encourage scientific creativity among students, but also help in popularising science amongst the visiting students.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Conversion of Lucknow-Pilibhit-Tanakpur Line

1177. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines;

(b) whether the said criteria can be adopted for conversion of Lucknow-Pilibhit-Tanakpur metre gauge line into broad gauge line and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Basically gauge conversion proposals are considered only when it is discovered that the traffic likely to develop in future cannot be handled on the existing system.

(b) The capacity at present on this section is considered sufficient to meet the traffic requirements, and therefore, on the basis of the criteria the conversion is not called for.

(c) The existing capacity of the section does not warrant conversion and there is a serious constraint to funds. Further more, this is a mere branch line of Lucknow-Kathgodam/Agra Metre Gauge trunk route, which itself is not proposed for conversion.

Development of New drug for Diarrhoea by Indian Council of Medical Research

1178. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has developed a new drug for diarrhoea in consultation with the World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, full details in this regard; and

(c) how far it would be helpful in curing diarrhoeal diseases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c). The National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Calcutta which is one of the ICMR's Institutes has demonstrated the effectiveness of glucose-salt mixture as oral rehydration therapy for mild to moderate cases of diarrhoea.

One of the main causes of mortality on account of diarrhoea is dehydration.

The studies conducted by the NICED have established that the oral fluid rehydration therapy is an effective treatment of mild to moderate degree of dehydration in all diarrhoeas. This therapy is considered to have tremendous potentiality in the domiciliary treatment of diarrhoea of all kinds, at the community level, especially in the rural areas where adequate medical facilities are not available.

Construction of Railway Station between Bhogpur and Panskure

1179. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: