

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY Basically my question pertains to fares....(Interruptions) Is it possible that along with the equal distance and equal fare, the arrival time may also be the same...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : When hon'ble Suresh Kalmadi was the Minister of Railways, he assumed that to lay railway track from Bandikui to Agra Fort was very necessary because it is causing a loss of at least Rs 20 lakh a day, not a month. He laid the foundation of this track but after that no progress has been made in this regard. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that by when the laying of railway track from Bandikui to Agra Fort is likely to be completed? Tenders have been issued twice for that but they were cancelled both times. I would like to know clearly from you that by when the track is likely to be completed? Besides this, as Bahaji has just now raised the matter of Udaipur railway track, the inauguration of laying of which has also been done. The Chair of the Minister of Railways cannot change, only persons sitting in it may change. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Railways that by when these two projects are likely to be completed?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Mr Speaker, Sir, I can only say that now railway budget will be presented in the House before you and you will be given opportunity to discuss on it. If there is no mention about a particular time, I will give information to the hon'ble Members about that line while giving reply to the discussion on railway budget.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will get the incomplete railways lines of Madhya Pradesh completed soon, construction of which has come to standstill? Whether any provision will be made for them in the railway budget which is going to be presented in the House today?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Government intends to convert all metre-gauge tracks into broad-gauge and we will try to convert them into broad-gauge by Ninth Plan. There are about 7000 kilometre such tracks which are required to be converted. If even after that some tracks are left they will be converted in the beginning of the Tenth Plan.

We have to see as to whether all the metre-gauge or narrow-gauge tracks can be converted or not. Out of them, which ever tracks are necessary to be converted we will convert them under a time bound programme.

#### Area under Foodgrains

\*84.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the total area of land under cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses and other coarse foodgrains

including vegetables and fruits in the country during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96:

(b) whether the farmers in several States have shown interest in producing other crops instead of wheat and paddy:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the farmers to produce wheat and paddy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) Area under cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses, coarse cereals, fruits and vegetables during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows :-

#### Area under Cultivation

Crops	(Million hectares)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 (Likely)
Wheat	25.15	25.64	25.18
Paddy	42.54	42.24	42.42
Oilseeds	26.90	25.26	26.24
Pulses	22.25	23.17	23.46
Coarse Cereals	32.81	32.50	31.74
Vegetables*	4.27	-	-
Fruits*	2.94	-	-

\* Estimates for 1994-95 and 1995-96 are not yet available.

(b) and (c) The farmers have shown interest in diversifying their cropping system to raise their income. This diversification has, however, not been against rice and wheat but other low yielding crops like coarse cereals.

(d) In order to increase the production of wheat and paddy, two centrally sponsored schemes viz., (i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice) and; (ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat) are being implemented besides ensuring remunerative prices and helping the farmers in increasing production and productivity of these crops.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, this question is of the national importance. Though at present, the production of wheat, paddy, millet and barley is decreasing gradually, farmers are inclined to produce cash crops. As a result of that country is facing short supply of wheat, rice, millet and barley. On the

other hand, cultivators and consumers are also facing problems. The main reason for this is that remunerative price are not fixed and due consideration is not given to the cost of land and the labour of members of the families of cultivators involved therein while fixing procurement price thereof. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether at that time of fixing procurement price, the cost of land and labour involved therein will be taken into account and cultivators will be given remunerative prices so that they produce paddy and seeds

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that there is a diversion of crops. A farmer will produce the crop which gives him more profit. Today, the taste of the people is changing. People all over the world are preferring rice instead of coarse foodgrains. Farmers can earn more by producing oilseeds or cotton crop. That is why, they are diverting towards these crops.

As far as the price policy is concerned, we will see as to how the Agriculture Prices Commission ponders over those points which the hon'ble Members have raised

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA Mr. Speaker, Sir, the irrigation system of our country is the costliest in the world. Therefore, I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government will make arrangements to give special subsidy for introducing Israel's sprinkling and drip irrigation system in India so that it can be useful for our cultivator and he can produce more by spending less?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, irrigation is not under my jurisdiction. Whatever, you want to ask in this regard, I will convey it to the concerned Minister. I can say this only.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sprinkling and drip irrigation system cannot be applied in producing paddy and wheat

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is of the view that the main reason for farmers' diversion towards cash crops is to increase income but I think it is not correct. It has happened due to their compulsion. Sugarcane crop is being burnt and farmers are not being paid the prices for their crops. An amount of Rs. 20 crore of the farmers of Punjab is outstanding against mill owners. The main reason behind it is increase in the prices of inputs like fertilisers, diesel and electricity. He said that when a scheme was formulated for I.C.D.P. rice and I.C.D.P. wheat then they sent proposals for remunerative prices but he has not stated about the action taken by the Government in this regard. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government is ready to give them remunerative price according to the index? My second question is whether the Government is ready to introduce crop insurance to compensate the loss incurred by the farmers due to natural calamities third question is

MR. SPEAKER. No, do not ask third question. First, let him give reply to your earlier questions

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, my third question also relates to my earlier questions. Lifting of paddy and rice, particularly in Punjab and Haryana has not been done and farmers have not been paid the support Price as per the announcement made for this. Farmers have been paid Rs. 20 less than the announced price per quintal during the last year and this year as well due to which crores of rupees of farmers are due against the Government. I would like to know as to whether the Government is ready to pay to the farmers their balance amount?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the work from sowing to reaping the crops comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture when sugarcane is harvested then it comes under the jurisdiction of State Government and when it is in the stage of crushing to sugar preparation stage then it comes under the Ministry of food. Therefore, if the hon'ble Member wants to ask any question relating to the stage from sowing to harvesting of the sugarcane, I will give reply. Since, the question asked by the hon'ble Member does not pertain to my Ministry, I will transfer it to the concerned Ministry. (Interruptions)

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would fix the support price by adding the production cost to the price of paddy and wheat and fix the support price accordingly?

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not follow his question.

MR. SPEAKER Please repeat your question

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE Whether the farmers will be provided the price of their products based on production cost? (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, criteria for the cost of production will have to be fixed because in the backward areas, the cost of production is more, whereas in advanced areas, it is comparatively less. (Interruptions)

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE Sir, will the hon. Minister encourage the farmers by providing them the price based on the cost of production? (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, the cost varies from place to place. The cost of production will be less at the place where the productivity is more. It varies from place to place. Therefore, uniformity in this respect cannot be maintained. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply given by the hon. Minister. How can you get the reply if you go on speaking like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to state that the criteria fixed for giving compensation to the farmers for the damage suffered by them due to natural calamities like flood, drought or other reasons are very old. The Government gives compensation between Rs 1500-2500 to farmers, as per old norms despite losses worth lakhs of rupees suffered by them. Whether the Government proposes to increase the amount of compensation and if not the reasons therefor? In cities the Traders are paid compensation ranging from Rs 5-10 lakhs for the damage suffered by them but the farmers are paid the compensations on old norms

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr Speaker, Sir, this question is related to crop insurance. Time should be given for that. Only then I can explain it. I think in the coming discussion I will take up this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Introduction of New Trains

\*85. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the routes on which new trains are proposed to be introduced during the current year, and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) These form part of the budget proposals

Railways zone	91-92 Kms	92-93 Kms	93-94 Kms	94-95 Kms	95-96 Kms
Central	-	-	42	-	28
Eastern	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	446	436	452	21
North Eastern	21	68	220	129	208
Northeast Frontier	-	-	181	43	115
Southern	-	405	263	270	92
South Central	114	227	332	530	294
South Eastern	-	35	82	23	-
Western	-	170	63	358	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>1619</b>	<b>1805</b>	<b>758</b>

[English]

### Length of Metre Gauge Line

\*86. SHRI K P SINGH DEO  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) length of metre gauge lines which existed in India five years back, Zone-wise

(b) progress made during these five years in conversion of the metre gauge lines to broad gauge, Zone-wise, and

(c) the time by which the aim of having only one standard broad gauge line throughout the country is expected to be fulfilled to enable the speedier movement of passenger and goods traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The length of metre gauge lines on Indian Railways five years back (as on 31.3.1991), Zone-wise was as under:

Zonal Railway	Metre gauge route Kms as on 31.3.91
Central	-
Eastern	-
Northern	3,033
North Eastern	4,092
Northeast Frontier	2,998
Southern	4,333
South Central	3,572
South Eastern	-
Western	5,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,419</b>

(b) The progress made in conversion of MG into BG since 01.4.91 upto 31.03.96 zone-wise is as under: