

(b) whether any work has stopped due to lack of funds ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) whether the sanctioned works would be completed within the time-bound period ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) :** (a) Progress of approved new line and gauge conversion (M.G. to B.G.) railway projects in Gujarat is given below :

1. Kapadvanj-Modasa (BG) new line —9% (Approx.)
2. Bhuj-Naliya (MG) New line —15% (Approx.)
3. Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar conversion from MG to BG —82% (Approx.)

(b) to (d). Works are being progressed according to the available resources and relative priorities.

**Assistance Pledged by India for Palestine Refugees**

**4940. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the nature and extent of assistance cash, kind and services, pledged by India to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the details of scholarships for higher studies and training facilities to Palestinian students in the country ; and

(b) the details of the assistance to be given for this cause for the next year ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) :** (a) Since 1976, India has been pledging Rs. 1 lakh in kind as annual assistance to UNRWA until 1978 when our annual assistance was raised to Rs. 1.5 lakhs. In 1982 we raised our con-

tribution to Rs. 2 lakhs. In 1983 we also made an ad hoc contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs in cash.

Against allocation of 10 scholarships since 1980-81, Palestinian students have used 12, 14 and 17 seats for academic years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 respectively.

(b) India has pledged Rs. 2 lakhs for 1984. India has allocated 10 scholarships for Palestinian students for 1983-84.

**Recruitment by Calcutta Metro Railway Administration**

**4941. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Metro Railway Administration is recruiting only outsiders for its permanent posts ;

(b) if so, why the claims of long-serving suitable casual workers are being ignored ; and

(c) whether the present recruitment policy will be changed to provide at least a percentage of permanent appointment to those working as casual labour on this project for a long period ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) :** (a) There are at present no permanent posts in the Metro Railway Calcutta.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under examination.

**Refusal of Admission of Appearing in Examination at Varanasi Centres**

**4942. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that candidates coming from West Bengal for appearing in the Railway Service Commission Examination