

(b) During the period preceding and immediately after the recent General Elections, there had been a sudden spurt in the activities of the ULFA in Assam, particularly in the districts of Nagaon, Nalbari and Tinsukia, where militants reportedly tried to extort money from traders. As a result, a section of businessmen is reported to have temporarily closed down their establishments and shifted to safer places to avoid harassment.

(c) The State Government was requested to take all necessary security/precautionary measures in this regard. In order to keep a control over the situation, police patrolling vigilance has been intensified. Checking of vehicles, etc. in all the vantage points has been stepped up.

Unauthorised Hawkers

639 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of authorised hawkers for sale of eatables and articles at various Railways stations in the country, zone-wise;

(b) whether there is quite a number of hawkers at various Railway Stations; and

(c) if so, the Steps the Government propose to take to regularise these hawkers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) There are no authorised hawkers in the Railways. The sale of eatables/articles is done by vendors of the licenced contractors/Departmental units.

(b) Yes Sir

(c) As per policy, catering/vending licences are awarded by the Zonal Railways after following prescribed procedure and guidelines. It is not the policy to licence unauthorised hawkers.

Conversion of Agricultural Land

640 SHRI K C KONDAIAH Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that conversion of agricultural land for non-farm use has increased in recent years

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the Government are considering to issue guidelines to be followed by State Governments to protect land for being diverted to non-farm use in the immediate future

(d) if so, the details of such guidelines and

(e) if not, the alternative measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) to (e). Conversation of agricultural land for non-farm use such as housing, industrial development, transport, defence purposes etc. is taking place due to growing population and diversification of economic activity. Government of India have been repeatedly impressing upon all the States and Union Territories to protect good agricultural land from being diverted for non-agricultural purposes. In this regard Government of India has also formulated a National Land Use Policy Outline (NLPO) and recommended to the States for implementation. The NLPO inter-alia envisages the restructuring of urban policy to ensure that highly productive land is not taken away.

Self-Sufficiency in Urea

641 DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government claim that country will be self-sufficient in urea production within two to three years, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLAI) (a) and (b) As per the latest projections of demand and indigenous production of urea, the country is not likely to attain self-sufficiency in urea production within the next three years.

Border Dispute

642 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute is pending for a very long time

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government to hold an opinion poll in the border areas.

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto and

(d) the time by which a final solution is likely to be taken to solve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) (a) Yes Sir

(b) to (d) In early 1989, the Government of Maharashtra had suggested holding of an opinion poll

to resolve the dispute. The Government of India are of the view that this dispute can be resolved with the willing co-operation of the State Governments concerned. The Government of India will be glad to extend all possible assistance to them in this regard

[Translation]

Conversion of Katihar-Jogbani Line

643. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Katihar-Jogbani single rail line into double line.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Yes Sir

(b) and (c) Updating survey for Gauge Conversion of Katihar-Jogbani MG line into BG has been taken up

Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available

[English]

Tarapore and Bhavnagar Line

644 SHRI RAJENDRA SINGH RANA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the ministry have made any survey for laying railway line between Tarapore and Bhavnagar in Gujarat.

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (c) A final location-cum-traffic survey was carried out in the past for laying a new railway line from Tarapore to Bhavnagar which yielded a negative return. In view of acute scarcity of resources and unremunerative nature, the work could not be taken in hand

Human Rights Courts

645 SHRI KASHI RAM RANA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have proposed to all the State and Union Territory Government for setting up separate Human Rights Courts.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the number of such courts established, Union Territory/State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD MAQBOOL DAR) (a) and (b). Section 30 of the protection of Human Rights Act 1993 provides for specifying a Court of Sessions for each district to be a Human Rights Courts to try offences arising out of violation of human rights. It is upto the State Governments to decide as to the need for setting up of Human Rights courts, with the concurrence of the High Courts.

(c) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

646. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposal to set up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Brahmavar in Karnataka, has been approved

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Site Selection Team Visited Brahmavar on 2nd December, 1995 and recommended the site for establishment of KVK at Regional Station of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore

(c) Question does not arise

(d) The Council is unable to indicate the exact time for starting the Krishi Vigyan Kendra as the additional resources asked for, have not yet been made available

Peddapalli-Nizamabad Seahor Line

647. SHRI L. RAMANA Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the conversion of Railway Line from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge in Peddapalli to Nizamabad Seahor has been undertaken.

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose and

(c) the time by which the job is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) The work of construction of new BG line from Peddapalli to Nizamabad via Karimnagar is an approved work and is in progress.

(b) The details will be available in the Railway Budget, which will be presented later today.

(c) Ninth Plan