

- (a) whether the Government have formulated a national action plan for the steel sector;
- (b) if so, the main objects and details of the action plan;
- (c) whether any proposal to invite multinational investment is under consideration of the Government in order to organise steel industry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Based on reports of the Working Groups set up for various sectors of the economy, the Planning Commission prepares a National Plan for five years. The Working Group on Iron and Steel for the IX Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission has projected a likely domestic demand of 38.68 million tonnes of Finished Carbon Steel by 2001-02 including an export potential of 6 Million Tonnes. The main objective of the plan is to ensure that the demand for steel in the country is met indigenously. As per the projections made by the Working Group, the production of Finished Carbon Steel will reach 38.012 Million Tonnes by 2001-02 against the projected demand of 38.68 Million Tonnes. The increase in production of steel is expected to come from modernisation and expansion of existing Integrated Steel Plants and creation of new capacities in the private sector. The Working Group has also projected a total investment of about Rs. 52,498 crores in the steel sector during IX Five Year Plan with public sector investing around Rs. 20,005 crores. Keeping in tune with the present economic policy, Ministry of Steel is endeavouring to facilitate creation of new capacities by making realistic projections of demand, removal of bottlenecks through inter action with the entrepreneurs, financial institutions and State Government etc.

#### Requirement of Rail Engines

213. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the total requirement of different types of rail engines in the country;
- (b) the total number of different type of rail engines are available in the country;
- (c) the total number of rail engines manufactured in the country and number of rail engines imported during the last three years country-wise; and
- (d) the total amount being spent on the import of rail engine from abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) In the IX Plan document sent by Railways to Planning Commission, requirement of 800 Diesel locomotives and 950 Electric

locomotives was projected during the IX Plan period. Railways have projected an outlay of Rs. 65,000 crores for the IX Plan. However, Planning Commission has tentatively provided an outlay of Rs. 47,484 crores for the IX Plan period. Review of the requirement of locomotives in IX Plan period is being carried out keeping in mind the availability of resources and the traffic offerings.

- (b) The total number of different types of rail engines on Indian Railways as on 31st March, 1997 is given below:

Steam locas	85
Dsl. Hydraulic & Mech. locos	738
Diesel Electric Locos	3,625
Electric Locos	2,519

- (c) The total number of rail engines manufactured in the country during the last three years are as under :

Year	Dsl Locos	Elec. Locos
1995-96	138	155
1996-97	157	175
1997-98	164	195

The total number of rail engines imported from foreign countries during the last three years are as under:

Year	Dsl Locos	Elec. Locos
1995-96	Nil	6
1996-97	Nil	24+3*
1997-98	Nil	Nil

\* as bank of spares.

- (d) Amount spent on import of 33 Electric Locos is Rs. 738 crores approx. In addition, a contract for import of 21 Diesel Electric freight locos has been placed in Oct'95. Supplies against this contract have not started so far. Total value of the contract is Rs. 167 crores (approx). Out of this, Rs. 9.75 crores has already been paid as advance.

[English]

#### Land reforms

214. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Chief Minister's Conference is being called shortly for concurrent review of the progress of land reforms; and
- (b) if so, the details of the action programme finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir, there is no programme of calling Chief Minister's Conference shortly.

(b) Does not arise ?

#### Firing on Indo-Pak Border

215. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani troops continued firing on Jammu and Kashmir border even after flag meetings of both sides;

(b) if so, the number of innocent people killed or injured by such shelling during the last two years and in 1998 till date; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the firing across the border of the state ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Pak troops continued firing along Jammu and Kashmir border even after flag meetings of both sides. Details of civilian casualties suffered during Pakistani firing along International Border (IB) portion of J & K border are as follows :-

		Killed	Wounded
a)	1996	03	04
b)	1997	08	20
c)	1998	—	09

BSF is deployed along the IB portion of J & K and a suitable response is given to Pak fire. Border contacts at post level and flag meetings at sector commander level are held periodically to de-escalate the situations.

#### French Delegation

216. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a French delegation on Higher Defence studies visited India on April 7, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the deliberations arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) A delegation of the French Institute for Advanced Defence Studies visited India from April 5-11, 1998. During the stay of the delegation in Mumbai, it visited INS 'Delhi' and INS 'Shishumar' at the Western Naval Command. At New Delhi the delegation was given a briefing by the Director, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses on "India's National Security and Strategic Concerns". The delegation also made a courtesy call on the Foreign Secretary.

[Translation]

#### Barren Land

217. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJI BHAI CHAUDHARI :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large area of land is lying barren in different States of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are taking any concrete steps to make it fertile;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons, therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT : (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Barren Land includes exposed steep-mountains slopes, desert, snow cover and such other areas which can not be brought under cultivation at an economic cost and classed as unculturable land. There is no programme to make barren land fertile. However, the Department of Wastelands Development is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Wastelands Development Project to develop non-forest wastelands in the country through holistic development of watershed. The scheme aims at checking land degradation, putting such wastelands to sustainable use and increasing bio-mass availability especially that of fuel wood and fodder. The schemes strives to increase rural employment besides ensuring people's participation in the wastelands development programmes at all stages.

#### Statement

##### Statewise Area of Barren Land in the country

Sl. No.	State	Total Geographical Area	(Area in Ha.)
			Barren/Stony/Sheet Rock Area
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27506800	391944
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8374300	97059
3.	Assam	7843800	0
4.	Bihar	17387700	108219
5.	Goa	370200	1121
6.	Gujarat	19802400	426165