

(d) whether the Government have provided financial assistance to the State Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The Central Government has no such plans. With regard to the question of setting up a second airport at Mumbai, Government is awaiting the report of the committee set up under the chairmanship of the Chairman, Airports Authority of India.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Survey for Hazipur-Lalganj-Vaishali-Saraiya-Devriya-Sahabganj-Areraj-Sugouli Rail Line

338. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work of Hazipur-Lalganj-Vaishali-Saraiya-Devriya-Sahabganj-Areraj-Sugouli rail line was inaugurated by the then Railway Minister on December 17, 1997; and

(b) if so, the present status of the survey of above rail line ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The field work for the survey has been taken up.

Grant by WLDB for Plantation

339. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the grant released by the Wastelands Development Board to the institutions and persons, separately for plantation during the last three years;

(b) whether most of these institutions and persons did not submit the necessary documents required for the next instalment and if submitted they were found fake on verification; and

(c) if so, the details of these institutions and persons and the action taken so far to recover the amount of grant from them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Department of Wastelands Development is implementing the Grant-in-Aid scheme in which financial

assistance to develop non-forest wastelands is given to Voluntary Agencies/Non-Governmental Organisations. The number of Voluntary Agencies/Non-Governmental Organisations received grant under the scheme during the last three years is as under :

Year	No. of VAs/NGOs	Amount Released (Rs. in Crores)
1995-96	70	3.40
1996-97	65	3.50
1997-98	30	2.60

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, in some cases Voluntary Agencies/Non-Governmental Organisations could not submit the necessary documents required for the next instalment. Action for recovery of the grant released in seven cases have been initiated.

Gauge Conversion

340. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations from the Members of Parliament regarding gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Raxol via Darbhanga from narrow gauge line into broad gauge line ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above conversion work is likely to be started ?

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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from Members of Parliament for conversion of these lines to broad gauge.

(c) Conversion of Gorakhpur-Narkatiaganj is in progress and will be completed in 1998-99. Narkatiaganj-Raxaul-Darbhanga work is included in budget, to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances for which action has been initiated.

[English]

Backlog of SCs/STs Posts

341. DR JAYANTA RONGPI :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of backlog vacancies in different categories reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs during the last three years in Railways, zone-wise;