

- (ii) Targetting government spending to primary education reducing communicable diseases, improving water and sanitation, and reducing household insecurity through public works programme would do most to reduce poverty.
- (iii) Anti-Poverty programmes that either do not reach the poor or that bestow a disproportionate share of their benefits on the non-poor are programmes in urgent need of reform. The majority of India's safety-net initiatives are misusing scarce financial resources that could be best invested to increase the poor's access to health and education services that have been shown to equip the poor to help themselves.
- (iv) There is a need to eliminate most anti-poverty programmes, direct some of the savings to ensure quality education which the analysis has shown is more effective in reducing poverty over the long-term than various poverty programmes.

[English]

#### **Doubling of Railway Line in Kerala**

3005. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of on-going doubling of railway lines in Kerala;
- (b) the present position of doubling of Mangalore-Shornur Railway line and funds allocated and spent thereon so far; and
- (c) the expected time for completion of this doubling work?

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) Doubling of Quilon-Trivandrum and Shoranur-Mangalore sections is in progress in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The work on this doubling is being progressed rapidly and four block sections (29 kms) have already been completed. This year we plan to complete another 48 kms. Rs. 47.74 crs. have been provided to this work in 1998-99 and Rs. 47.52 crs. have been spent upto 31.3.1998. This work is currently planned to be progressed and completed in about five years, subject to availability of resources.

#### **Gauge Conversion**

3006. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made in gauge conversion works on the Tirupati-Katpadi and Renigunta-Gudur Sectors; and
- (b) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

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) The details are given as under :

#### **(i) Gauge conversion of Tirupati-Katpadi Section :**

Work is proceeding well on bridges, earthwork and ballast supply on the entire section. This line is expected to be converted during the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

#### **(ii) Doubling of Renigunta-Gudur Section :**

The work has received the requisite clearances. Preliminary works like calling of tenders for earthwork and bridges have been taken up. The section will be completed in the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

#### **Defects in Training for Pilots**

3007. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :  
SHRI R.S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Air Force Pilot training is defective' appeared in 'The Times of India' Bombay, dated November 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the case reported therein; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The News report has mentioned the lack of an Advanced Jet Trainer, lack of competence of trainers and lack of simulator training. The training in the IAF is based on time-tested and proven pattern. The training syllabi are so structured that it is ensured by the time a trainee pilot is commissioned, he attains the desired standard and level of confidence in all basic flying exercises/manoeuvres. Training includes a very extensive theoretical knowledge covering aviation related subjects, aircraft system and also PT and parades to ensure all-round development. All flying training establishments have highly qualified and experi-