

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply given by the hon. Minister. How can you get the reply if you go on speaking like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to state that the criteria fixed for giving compensation to the farmers for the damage suffered by them due to natural calamities like flood, drought or other reasons are very old. The Government gives compensation between Rs 1500-2500 to farmers, as per old norms despite losses worth lakhs of rupees suffered by them. Whether the Government proposes to increase the amount of compensation and if not the reasons therefor? In cities the Traders are paid compensation ranging from Rs 5-10 lakhs for the damage suffered by them but the farmers are paid the compensations on old norms

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr Speaker, Sir, this question is related to crop insurance. Time should be given for that. Only then I can explain it. I think in the coming discussion I will take up this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Introduction of New Trains

*85. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the routes on which new trains are proposed to be introduced during the current year, and

(b) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) These form part of the budget proposals

Railways zone	91-92 Kms	92-93 Kms	93-94 Kms	94-95 Kms	95-96 Kms
Central	-	-	42	-	28
Eastern	-	-	-	-	-
Northern	-	446	436	452	21
North Eastern	21	68	220	129	208
Northeast Frontier	-	-	181	43	115
Southern	-	405	263	270	92
South Central	114	227	332	530	294
South Eastern	-	35	82	23	-
Western	-	170	63	358	-
Total	135	1351	1619	1805	758

[English]

Length of Metre Gauge Line

*86. SHRI K P SINGH DEO
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) length of metre gauge lines which existed in India five years back, Zone-wise

(b) progress made during these five years in conversion of the metre gauge lines to broad gauge, Zone-wise, and

(c) the time by which the aim of having only one standard broad gauge line throughout the country is expected to be fulfilled to enable the speedier movement of passenger and goods traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The length of metre gauge lines on Indian Railways five years back (as on 31.3.1991), Zone-wise was as under:

Zonal Railway	Metre gauge route Kms as on 31.3.91
Central	-
Eastern	-
Northern	3 033
North Eastern	4 092
Northeast Frontier	2 998
Southern	4 333
South Central	3 572
South Eastern	-
Western	5 391
Total	23 419

(b) The progress made in conversion of MG into BG since 01.4.91 upto 31.03.96 zone-wise is as under:

(c) It is not proposed to convert all MG/NG lines. The project unigauge aims at selective conversion of those MG/NG lines which will provide alternative routes, generate additional capacity and would serve the developmental needs of areas having the potential and lines required on operational/strategic considerations.

So far the Ministry of Railways have identified 14500 kms of MG/NG lines for conversion of which 5533 kms have already been converted. About 6800 kms (including 5533 already converted) are expected to be completed in the 8th Plan and remaining lines will be taken up during the 9th Plan period.

[Translation]

Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings

*87 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY
PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state .

(a) the number of accidents which occurred at the unmanned level crossings in the country since the beginning of 1996 and the number of persons killed and injured therein. Zone-wise.

(b) the number of unmanned level crossings identified to be more accident prone. Zone-wise.

(c) whether any programme has been drawn by the Government to man these unmanned level crossings in a phased-manner so as to provide a safety system to avoid accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) the required information for the period 1.1.96 to 30.6.96 is as under .

Railway	No of Accidents	No of Persons	
		Killed	Injured
Central	2	1	6
Eastern	-	-	-
Northern	9	18	18
North Eastern	3	27	6
Northeast Frontier	2	21	27
Southern	6	42	18
South Central	8	13	33
South Eastern	1	-	4
Western	5	4	3
	36	126	115

(b) No level crossing has been identified as more accident prone as no level crossing at which accident

has taken place during the period from 1.1.96 to 30.6.96 has figured in the accidents during the preceding 5 years.

(c) and (d). While the manning of unmanned level crossings is taken up at the request of State Government at their cost, the Railways have decided that depending upon the availability of resources, identified vulnerable level crossings will be manned by the Railways themselves. The Railways also decided that no existing manned level crossing shall be de-manned.

[English]

Visits by National Human Rights Commission

*88 SHRI HARIN PATHAK Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission had visited various places in country recently

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the total number and nature of petitions/Memoranda received by the Commission during these visits. State-wise

(d) the outcome of these visits, and

(e) the amounts spent on these visits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the last one year, the Commission has visited the following places during the periods mentioned against each

- (i) Hyderabad - from 21.8.95 to 25.8.95
- (ii) Mumbai & Pune - from 25.9.95 to 27.9.95
- (iii) Ferozabad - from 27.2.96 to 28.2.96
- (iv) Simla - from 2.6.96 to 4.6.96

(c) and (d). The Commission during these visits has received complaints of human rights violation from various individuals and agencies. These complaints are processed alongwith other complaints received directly in the Commission and no separate record is kept of the complaints received during visits. During these visits, the Commission has examined many cases of human rights violations on spot met State Government officials, representatives of medical and legal professions, NGOs and human rights activists. This has resulted in recommendations to the concerned authorities such as, taking action against guilty officials, taking remedial measures, where necessary, and payment of compensation to victims. In many cases, the Commission has recommended action against guilty officials in appropriate courts of law.

(e) An amount of Rs. 89,396.00 has been spent by the National Human Right Commission on the visits mentioned in parts (a) and (b) above.