

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Vohra Committee was set up under Shri N.N. Vohra, Ex-Home Secretary and comprising Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as its Members, to take stock of all available information about the activities and links for crime syndicates/Mafia Organisations which had developed links with and were being protected by Government functionaries and political personalities. The Report of the Vohra Committee was placed before the Parliament on 1.8.1995 on which there was full scale debate in the Parliament. The Vohra Committee report had recommended setting up of a Nodal Agency at the level of Home Secretary. The Government had accordingly set up a Nodal Agency on 2nd August, 1995 with the Home Secretary as the Chairman and Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as members. The Nodal Agency has started functioning and has held seven meetings since it set up. The Nodal Agency in its meetings generally reviews the information available with the different agencies, relating to the activities of major crime syndicates and the course of action to be taken by the field formations. The Question of inter-agency coordination and inter-agency support in the pursuit of cases as per law is considered and appropriate decisions taken with regard to requirements of such support and cooperation. In the interest of better inter-Departmental coordination, the Nodal Agency was reconstituted with effect from 5.1.1996 with Cabinet Secretary assuming charge as Chairman of the Nodal Agency and with Home Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (RAW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members

[Translation]

Conversion into Broad Gauge Line

2201 SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which all the meter gauge railway lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge under the present Unigauge Policy of the Government; and

(b) the time by which North-Eastern Railway propose to convert the present meter gauge Railway line between Samastipur and Khagaria into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) All MG lines are not proposed to be converted.

(b) There is no proposal for conversion of this line at present.

[English]

Dissection of Animals in Schools

2202. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Committee for control and supervision of experiments on animals under the prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960;

(b) whether the Committee has suggested that dissection of animals in schools should be stopped; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A draft Notification of intent making necessary amendments in the "Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervisions) Rules 1968" has been issued seeking the suggestions/objections from the public, Central/State Govt. Departments and other interested parties. Government will take the decision after considering the views of all the parties involved in the matter

[Translation]

Production Cost of Fertilizers

2203. SHRI SOHANBEER : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of production of fertilizers has increased during the year 1996-97 as compared to that of 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of fertilizer producing units have been getting sick despite the financial assistance being provided by the Government

(d) if, so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) The efforts being made to revitalise these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). There is likely to be some increase in the cost of production of various fertilizers during 1996-97 mainly on account of increase in the price of various petroleum products and increase in the rates of railway freight.

(c) to (e). Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) are two fertilizer producing public sector undertakings (PSUs) which had been declared as sick companies by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in November, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industries Companies (Special Provision) Act 1985. In its efforts to rehabilitate these companies, the Government has approved in principle the revival packages which envisage the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI and Drugapur, Barauni and Namrup units of HFC entailing a fresh investment of Rs. 2201.13 Crores (Rs.1736.20 crores for FCI and Rs. 464.93 crores for HFC) apart from capital restructuring and other financial reliefs to these undertakings. An expert Group has been constituted to reformulate the revival packages from the stand point of funding by the Financial Institutions (FIs). Pending a final implementation of the revival packages, the Government has been providing budgetary support to these undertakings, to the extent possible, to sustain production in their functional units. During 1995-96, budgetary support of Rs. 108.60 crores to HFC and Rs. 217.60 crores to FCI was provided.

[English]

Cotton Development Board

2204. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Cotton Development Board for research and other promotional activities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Road Over Bridge Project

2205. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a budgetary support was made in the railway budgets during 1987 to 1989 for 'Road Over Bridge' project at Liluah-Howrah Division;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in executing the same; and

(c) the role to be played by the Railways and State Government in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Work included in Railway's Works Programme 1988-89.

(b) Delay is due to change in approved alignment and General Arrangement Drawing by State Govt. on account of inability to remove High Tension Cables

(c) Works of construction of Road Over Bridges in replacement of Level crossings are proposed by State Governments giving priorities. Such of those proposals for which State Governments completes the preliminary prerequisites are included in Railway's Works programme. Cost of the work is shared by the Railway and State Governments as per laid down rules. Railways carry out construction of the bridge, the portion over Railway tracks, and the State Governments the construction of approaches.

[Translation]

Conversion of Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra Rail Line

2206. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work of conversion of Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra meter gauge line into broad gauge is likely to be started;

(b) whether some suggestions have been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In the 9th Five Year Plan period.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This work is included in the first phase of the action plan and is planned to be taken up in the 9th Plan period.

[English]

Indoor Air Pollution

2207. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the quantum of the indoor air pollution is ten times higher than outdoor air pollution;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any research in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and findings thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government to check such pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The nature and magnitude of the indoor air pollution would depend upon the number of occupants and their activities, ventilations system, nature and quality of fuel used for cooking and heating purposes, impact of outdoor pollution etc.

According to the indoor air quality survey conducted by the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and