

(c) Provision of a Road Over Bridge can be considered on cost sharing basis provided the State Govt. sponsors a firm proposal duly agreeing to bear their share of cost and agree to close the level crossing for which State Govt. had been requested several times.

(d) Not known in view of above.

Development of APMCs

1309. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for revival of Centrally sponsored scheme for the Development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Dharangdhara Kuda Line

1310. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of gauge conversion of Dharangdhara Kuda Line; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is to be executed on cost sharing basis with the Govt. of Gujarat and Ministry of Industry and will be started as soon as the Co-sharers come forth with their share of funds. The Railways have provided their full share of funds in Budget 1998-99.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1311. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steering group has been constituted to look into the poverty alleviation and area development programmes in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the linkage of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) with Training of Rural Youths for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is found not to be satisfactory; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A Steering Group on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India was set up by Planning Commission for the Ninth Five Year Plan to suggest various measures to strengthen, improve and streamline the poverty alleviation programmes so that benefits of the programmes reach the rural poor.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to Hashim Committee's recommendations, this Ministry is considering restructuring of all self-employment programmes with a view to improve the linkages between organisation of Groups, training and Credit as well as issues such technology, marketing and infrastructure.

[Translation]

Allocations for Armed Forces

1312. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IAF has urged that more funds be allocated for them in view of the huge funds earmarked for defence by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir. However, the IAF has urged that more funds should be allocated to it for meeting its various requirements.

(b) It is not considered desirable to give details in this regard in the interest of national security.

[English]

Water Supply and Sewerage Projects for Maharashtra

1313. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent any water supply and sewerage projects to the Union Government for clearance during the last three years;