

from the State Government, it will not be possible to indicate the date by which decision on the scheme could be taken and the State would start the construction.

**Deaths Caused Due to Jaundice
During 1984 in Gujarat
and Country**

*311. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of deaths caused due to Jaundice during 1984 in the country;

(b) the number of deaths caused due to Jaundice during 1984 in Gujarat;

(c) whether Jaundice has again raised its ugly head in recent months; and

(d) the steps take to control the epidemic ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) During 1984, 2,789 deaths due to viral hepatitis/Jaundice have been reported by the States/ Union Territory Governments.

(b) As per reports received from the State Government, there were 1,189 deaths due to viral hepatitis/Jaundice in Gujarat State during 1984.

(c) Reports received from the Government of Gujarat indicate that in recent months a fairly large number of cases of Jaundice are taking place.

(d) The steps already taken include direction to the medical institutions to observe strict *asepsis* and sterilisation to prevent transmission, strict enforcement of test for Australia Antigen before blood transfusion, making SGPT test compulsory, delegating the powers under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to the District Magistrates, procuring Hepatitis vaccines and Hyper-Immunoglobulin

serums and intensification of the health educational campaign to improve sanitation and personal hygiene with special emphasis on sanitary disposal of faeces.

[*Translation*]

**Conversion of Jogbani Katihar Section
into Broad Line**

*312. SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jogbani-Katihar Section on the North Eastern Frontier Railway is the only railway route for carrying industrial products from the Indian areas bordering Nepal and for pilgrims and other passengers as also for the Calcutta Port ;

(b) whether Bihar Government have repeatedly made a demand for the conversion of the said section into broad gauge line particularly when the Katihar-Barauni railway section has already been converted into broad gauge railway line ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to start its conversion work immediately; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Requests have been received.

(c) and (d). In view of the severe constraint on resources and heavy commitments already in hand, it will not be possible to take up this project, for the present.

[*English*]

**Vice Chancellor of North-Eastern Hill
University**

*313. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :