

S. No.	Project	Status
4.	Dabhoi-Miyagam	Survey for gauge conversion of this line has already been completed as an alternative line of the proposed alignment for 3rd line between Virar-Ahmedabad. However, this line could not be considered as part of 3rd line as the alignments on western side of Virar-Ahmedabad BG line has been found most suitable for the 3rd line on operational consideration.
5.	Ahmedabad-Himatnagar	A survey for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himatnagar-Udaipur is already in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available. No target date is fixed.
6.	Ahmedabad-Vijapur	This proposal is under examination.
7.	Wind Mill Station-Bedi Bundar	This proposal is under examination.

(c) Position will only be known when the Budget 2000-2001 is presented to the Parliament in Feb'2000.

Genetically modified seeds

†1829. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision regarding import of genetically modified seed; if so, the details thereof;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have conducted any study regarding utility of the above seed, keeping in view the interest of farmers of the country; and

(c) if so, the name of the organisation conducting the said study and the report thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) to (c) Genetically Modified Seeds (GMS) have not yet been authorized for import for commercial use. However, for research purposes these are being authorized for imports by applicants who are involved in research in laboratories or contained green houses or in contained open field conditions. The environmental safety as well as agronomic advantages from the use of GMSs depend upon three factors namely the host plant into which a transgene has been inserted, the nature of the transgene construct and the environment into which the GMSs are tested. These studies are conducted keeping in view the interest of the farmers. The Government through Expert Committees of the Department of Biotechnology is conducting evaluation of several transgenic plants namely insect resistant cotton; herbicide tolerant Indian mustard; insect resistant tomato; cauliflower, cabbage, tobacco and potato in different parts of the country. These experiments are being closely monitored by the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) with experts from Agriculture Universities, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and molecular biologists constituted by the Department of Biotechnology. The data of such studies is presented to the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) of the Department of Biotechnology consisting of experts which recommends further action after being satisfied with the data generated by various experiments both from the view point of safety and agronomic improvements.