

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government had been receiving occasional proposals to set up self-financing private universities, not requiring financial support from the Government. For the establishment of such universities, a Bill entitled Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation Bill), 1995 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 25, 1995. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of this Ministry. The Committee submitted its Report to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha with three members of the Committee giving a note of dissent. The Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

There are a number of safeguards in the Bill against the commercialisation of universities and higher education. As per the proposed provisions of the Bill, the fee to be charged by the Universities will be based on unit cost and sponsors will not be able to make profit out of it. Moreover, according to the proposals in the Bill University Grants Commission (UGC's) prior approval would be necessary for fixing fee and number of seats and the sponsors will not be allowed to make it a source of profit. Similarly, UGC's approval would be mandatory for the revision of fee and altering the number of seats. The sponsor will, therefore, not be able to treat the universities as a commercial enterprise. The Bill provides overriding powers to the Central Government to issue directions curbing any activity of the university that may be detrimental to its functioning as an educational institution. It also provides for the winding up of the university for mismanagement and forfeiture of the endowment.

Gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

*182. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed;
(c) whether the budget allocation has been increased to carry out these works; and

(d) by when the Chennai city electric train route of Beach to Tambaram would be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The progress of gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu is as under:

(i) Gauge conversions completed:

- Dindigul-Tuticorin (196 kms)
- Chennai Beach-Tambaram (27 kms)
- Trichy-Thanjavur (50 kms)
- Tambaram-Trichy (309 kms)

(ii) Gauge conversion works in progress:

- Trichy-Dindigul (93 kms) will be completed by 31.12.1998.
- Chengalpattu-Arakkonam (67 kms) will be completed in 1999-2000.

(iii) Gauge conversion works which have been taken up and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources:

- Madurai-Rameswaram (162 kms.)
- Thanjavur-Nagore-Karaikal (84 kms.)

The target dates for these projects have not been fixed.

(iv) Projects already included in the budget on which work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances;

- Thanjavur-Villupuram main line (192 kms)
- Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (263 kms in Tamil Nadu and 94 kms in Kerala).
- Villupuram-Pondicherry (28 kms in Tamil Nadu and 10)

**kms in Union Territory of Pondicherry)
Chennai Beach- Chengalpattu 60 kms)**

The target dates for these works have not been fixed.

(c) Funds required by Southern Railway for the works targeted for completion in this year are being provided.

(d) Gauge conversion of the Suburban section from Chennai Beach to Chengalpattu via Tambaram has been included in the Railway Budget 1998-99 to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. The work is to be done on 50:50 cost sharing basis between Railways and Government of Tamil Nadu. The work would be taken up once the requisite clearances have been obtained. Action in this regard has already been initiated. No target date has been fixed for completing this work.

चीनी मिलों की स्थापना

*183 श्रीमती मालती शर्मा : क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में चीनी मिलों की कुल संख्या कितनी हैं और उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि अनेक राज्यों की मांग के अनुसार चीनी मिलें स्थापित नहीं की गई हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं; और

(घ) वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान कितनी चीनी मिलें स्थापित की गई और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) 30.9.1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार देश में संस्थापित चीनी मिलों की राज्य वार तथा क्षेत्रवार संख्या दर्शानेवाला ब्यौरा विवरण-I पर हैं। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) और (ग) उद्यमियों को अधिक स्वतंत्रता देने के उद्देश्य से चीनी उद्योग से चीनी उद्योग 11.9.1990 से लाइसेंसमुक्त कर दिया गया है, ताकि वे औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में निवेश तथा प्रौद्योगिकी संबंधी निर्णय ले सकें जिससे अधिक औद्योगिक विकास में सहायता मिल सके।

(ख) नई चीनी मिलें, जो पेरार्ई मौसम 1997-98 (अक्तूबर-सितम्बर) में कार्य आरम्भ कर चुकी हैं, उनके राज्य-वार नाम दर्शाने वाला ब्यौरा विवरण-II पर हैं।

विवरण-I

देश में 30.9.98 की स्थिति के अनुसार संस्थापित चीनी मिलों की राज्य-वार, क्षेत्र-वार संख्या

क्र.सं.	राज्य	संस्थापित चीनी मिलों की कुल संख्या			
		सार्वजनिक	निजी	सहकारी	कुल
1.	पंजाब	-	6	16	22
2.	हरियाणा	-	3	10	13
3.	राजस्थान	1	1	1	3
4.	उत्तर प्रदेश	35	55	32	122
5.	मध्य प्रदेश	2	4	3	9
6.	गुजरात	-	-	20	20
7.	महाराष्ट्र	-	5	116	121
8.	बिहार	15	13	-	28
9.	असम	-	1	2	3
10.	उड़ीसा	-	4	4	8