

of area. In order to raise the rate of growth of productivity, the Government is implementing several production oriented programmes for various crops along with improving the supply of inputs and providing price and market support.

Newsitem Captioned "Rajdhani track develops cracks in Dhanbad"

3984. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA

SHARMA:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the Telegraph, Calcutta dated 3-7-1996, captioned "Rajdhani track develops cracks in Dhanbad-unscentific mining leads to subsidence";

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of warning given by the Chief Mining Adviser, neither the Railways nor the Coal India Limted paid any attention to the safety of the tracks passing through the collieries; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the Railways for the construction of an alternative route between Dhanbad and Patherdih?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, it is not a fact.

(c) Construction of an alternative route is not contemplated.

Delay in offloading of urea

3985. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a delay in offloading Rs. 52 crore worth of urea which cost the exchequer \$ 25,000 per day; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in offloading the urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) and (b) For handling and distribution of imported urea during 1996-97, the Government had started the process for appointment of handling agencies well in time. But unlike in the past, the rates received through tenders for handling urea at the ports for the current financial year were uniformly higher over the previous year. As these rates have an implication on the quantum of urea subsidy, the finalisation of the 1996-97 contracts merited detailed scrutiny by different agencies of the Government. During this process, five vessels containing a total of 93,535 MTs. of urea arrived at Indian ports in the period immediately prior to the appointment of handling agencies. The pre-berthing detention in the case of these vessels is estimated as 6.17 days per vessel and the weighted average detention charges as Rs. 1.87 lakhs per day.

Banning of Industries in forest areas

3986. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to put a blanket ban on setting-up of industries in forest areas even if they fulfil the requirements as laid down by law;

(b) whether this policy will not deny direct and indirect fruits of industrialisation and infrastructural development of the area;

(c) whether Government are considering guidelines for the entrepreneurs whom they want to put up industries based on raw material available in forests; and

(d) whether the Ministry of Industry will be taken into confidence before arriving at a decision on the above mentioned ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No proposal to put a blanket ban on setting up of industries in forest is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Sir. However, the National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that as far as possible, the forest based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of a direct relationship, between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

3987. **SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to take up gauge conversion projects in Gujarat through private funding; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Proposals were received from the Govt. of Gujarat for conversion of Rajkot-Veraval, Navlakhi-Wankaner-Maliya, Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Viramgam-Mahesana-Patna, Bedi Port, Surendranagar-Rajula, Kalol-Vijapur, Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar, Dhrangadhra-Kuda, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Joravarnagar-Sayala and Bharuch-Dahej. Out of these,

Gauge Conversion of Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navlakhi and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana and Viramgam-Mahesana has been taken up through private Capital under the BOLT Scheme.

Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj and Rajkot-Veraval sections have also been taken up.

कृषि क्षेत्र में योजना प्रक्रिया का विकेन्द्रीकरण

3988. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गैर सरकारी संगठनों ने सरकार से कृषि क्षेत्र में योजना प्रक्रिया का विकेन्द्रीकरण करने का अनुरोध किया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार इन संगठनों द्वारा दिए गए विभिन्न सुझावों की जाँच-पड़ताल कर रही है;

(ग) योजना प्रक्रिया का विकेन्द्रीकरण कब तक आरंभ कर दिया जाएगा; और

(घ) उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री चतुरानन भिष्म): (क) से (घ) विकेन्द्रीकृत योजना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है। हालाँकि कृषि क्षेत्र में विकेन्द्रीकृत योजना का कोई औपचारिक प्रस्ताव नहीं है फिर भी, योजना को सबसे निचले स्तर पर लागू करने के लिए विभिन्न हलकों से प्राप्त विभिन्न माँगों को देखते हुए 73 वें और 74 वें संविधान संशोधन अधिनियमों के अधिनियमन के माध्यम से सरकार ने महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाये हैं। इन संविधान संशोधन अधिनियमों से पंचायतों तथा नगरपालिकाओं को अपने संबंधित अधिकार क्षेत्र के लिए योजना तैयार करने के लिए संवैधानिक दर्जा दिया गया है। उपर्युक्त संवैधानिक उपबंधों को प्रभावी बनाने की कार्रवाई विभिन्न राज्यों में अलग-अलग चरणों में है।

Production of Sugarcane in Haryana, U.P. and Maharashtra

3989. **SHRI LACHHMAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of sugarcane in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, separately, during the last two years;