

Gauge conversion in the NER

*278. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway lines from Rangia to Murkongselec (Jonai) and Guwahati to Cachar are being upgraded from metre-gauge to broad-gauge;
- (b) if so, the schedule of their completion;
- (c) if not, the reasons for delay;
- (d) whether in Agartala, Railways have taken a metre-gauge line recently instead of a broad-gauge line;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not providing broad-gauge line instead;
- (f) whether there is any provision to extend railway line to Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur which are having tourist potential;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The work of gauge conversion of Rangiya-Murkongselec and M.G. part of Guwahati-Cachar, *i.e.* Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam & Badarpur-Kumarghat and Katakhal-Bairabhi has been taken up.

(b) The target for completion of Rangiya-Murkongselec gauge conversion has been fixed as March, 2012 and Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam & Badarpur-Kumarghat and Katakhal-Bairabhi has been fixed as March, 2011.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The existing rail network beyond Lumding southwards is on Meter Gauge for which gauge conversion has been taken up. To provide rail connectivity to Agartala, the Meter Gauge service has been extended. However, the line has been constructed to Broad Gauge standards and will be converted once gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur-Kumarghat is completed

(f) to (h): For extending Railway line in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur, following works have been taken up:

(Rs. in crore)						
Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure upto March, 2008	Outlay 2008-09	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Meghalaya	Azara-Byrnihat (30 Km) (National Project)	200	0.02	10.10	Final location survey taken up. Survey work in Assam portion suspended since 10.11.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.		Dudhnoi- Depa (Mendipathar) (19.75 Km)	89.04	0.51	0.02	due to public agitation against the alignment. Final location survey has been completed. Action has been initiated for land acquisition after the joint survey with State Government. Final Location survey taken up.
3.	Mizoram	Bhairabhi- Sairang (52 km) (National Project)	619.34	-	0.01	
4.	Manipur	Jiribam- Imphal Road (Tupul) (98 km) (National Project)	727.56	36.20	41.85	Final location survey completed in 68 Kms. Work is in progress in first 9.9 Km. Land acquisition pro- posal for 20 Km length from Tupul end submitted to State Govern- ment. The line is proposed to be extended to Imphal.

Procurement of anti-rabbies vaccine

*279.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHNA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be phased to state:

(a) whether the Centre Government hospitals in the Capital are procuring poor quality anti-rabbies vaccine for patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most developed nations have discontinued the use of equine serum, being outdated; and

(d) if so, the reasons of continuing outdated treatment of patients bitten by dogs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d)
In so far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, Anti-Rabies Vaccines (ARV) of standard