

**Junk Brake Vans on Passenger Trains**

2870. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Railways are planning to junk the brake vans on passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed move and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternatives are being a contemplated to cater to the end-to-end movement of parcels, including newspapers and perishables, and ensure an assured delivery thereof on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**S&T Programmes in Manipur**

2871. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds sanctioned for taking up science and technology programmes in Manipur for 2001-2002;

(b) the measures taken for development of science and technology in rural areas there; and

(c) the details of programmes of the other North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) The total amount of funds sanctioned so far for taking up science and technology programmes in Manipur for 2001-2002 is Rs. 234.79 lakh. In addition, Rs. 17 crores have been allocated to Central Agricultural University, Imphal for the agricultural research and education for 2001-2002.

(b) The Government is implementing a number of programmes in various fields such as vermincom posting, sericulture,

aquaculture, animal husbandry, poultry fanning, Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. for development of science & technology in rural areas.

(c) In other North-Eastern States, programmes under science communication, bio-technology, non-conventional energy, seismicity, S&T entrepreneurship, basic research agricultural research, research facilities, Natural Resource Data Management System and core support for strengthening State S&T Councils etc. have been supported to develop Science & Technology.

**Upgrading Drought Monitoring Cell In Bangalore**

2872. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: WM the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government seeking financial assistance towards technology upgradation of the drought monitoring cell, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance sought for; and

(c) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 1.0 Crore.

(c) Action has been initiated to evaluate the proposal.

**Initiatives Against Natural Disasters**

2873. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the pre-disaster and post-disaster technology based initiatives launched so far by Government in order to mitigate hardships from natural disasters being faced by the country;

(b) the studies undertaken so far, of the earthquake affected structures and cyclone resistant structures by National Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centers in the country and with what results;