

Guna-Etawah rail line

†*210. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the work on Guna-Etawah rail line of Madhya Pradesh has been completed;
- (b) the remaining kilometre length of laying work and the reasons for non completion and slow progress of the project; and
- (c) the allocation for the project made in the budget of this year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) The total length of Guna-Etawah new line project is 344.82 km out of which 308.43 km from Guna to Bhind has already been completed and commissioned.

(b) The remaining length is 36.39 km from Bhind to Etawah. There has been delay due to non-transfer of Forest and Wild Life Sanctuary land in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. However, Uttar Pradesh Government has permitted to carry out the work. The working permission on forest land has been withdrawn by Madhya Pradesh State Government who are asking for 5% of cost of the project towards compensatory afforestation fund. This amount has already been paid to Uttar Pradesh Govt. as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. There has been failure of super-structure contracts of the three important bridges on Kunwari, Chambal and Yamuna rivers. New agencies have been fixed and the progress has already been expedited.

(c) The funds allocated for this work during 2009-10 is Rs. 50 crore.

Closed MSMEs

*211. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) how many units of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises are remaining closed in the country;
- (b) what is the total capital invested in such units that had turned unproductive;
- (c) what is the number of workers rendered unemployed due to such closures; and
- (d) whether Government is considering instituting any mechanism for rehabilitation of such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Based on the Third All India Census of small scale industries (SSIs) with reference year 2001-02, out of 22,62,401 SSI units registered up to 31.03.2001, 8,87,427 units were found closed. Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Act, 2006 which came into force from 2nd October, 2006, information in respect of closure among medium enterprise is not available. Unit-wise data on capital invested and number of workers employed in closed units is not maintained centrally.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) The revival/rehabilitation of sick MSMEs is undertaken by the primary lending institutions (including commercial banks) in terms of guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time. For this purpose, the RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks in January, 2002 on detection of sickness in MSEs at an early stage and taking remedial measures and for rehabilitation of sick MSEs identified as potentially viable. The RBI has also issued guidelines on 8th September, 2005 relating to debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), based on the "Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to SMEs" announced by the Central Government on 10th August, 2005.

The Standing Advisory Committee on Flow of Institutional Credit to the MSME sector in RBI had observed in January, 2007 that there was considerable delay in rehabilitation/nursing of the potentially viable units, mainly on account of the inability of the promoters to bring in additional contribution. Consequent to this, a Working Group on 'Rehabilitation of Sick SMEs' was constituted to look into the issues and suggest remedial measures so that the potentially viable sick units could be rehabilitated at the earliest. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, the RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks on May 4, 2009 to consider, for speedy implementation, the recommendations made with regard to timely and adequate flow of credit to the MSE sector. The banks have also been advised to apply the RBI's guidelines on debt restructuring optimally and in letter and spirit and put in place their own non-discretionary one-time settlement (OTS) policy for this sector.

Ending of vendor system at stations

†*212. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways is contemplating to end the vendor system at various railway stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the system to be started in place of the existing vendor system;
- (d) whether Railways propose to give employment to the existing vendors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir. However, the commission vendors/bearers who were earlier engaged on commission basis in the erstwhile railway departmental catering units, are being absorbed in the railways progressively.

(e) Does not arise.

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