

New railway line from Kadur to Chikmagalur

†*304. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether former Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had laid foundation stone for laying new railway line from Kadur to Chikmagalur in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka;
- (b) whether this railway line has been completed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The foundation stone for Kadur-Chikmagalur was laid by the then Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on 20.01.1997.

(b) and (c) Work on Kadur-Chikmagalur new line (46 km.) is in progress as per the availability of resources. Kadur-Kannihali (25 kms.) which is a part of Kadur-Chikmagalur is targeted for completion during 2010-11.

Spending of higher education

†*305. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being spent on education at present as compared to that of 1990s;
- (b) the amount allocated so far out of the scheme worth Rs. 46,500 crore formulated for higher education in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is a constant decrease in Government investment in education sector; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The public expenditure on Education by Governments of the States and the Central Government as percentage of Gross Domestic Product was 3.78% (Provisional) in 2008-09 as compared to an average of 3.72% being spent during the decade of 1990's.

(b) The details of funds allocated for the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India during Eleventh Five Year Plan and in the year 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)				
Sector/Years	Eleventh Plan (2007-12) as approved by NDC	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
University and Higher Education	49,728	2,416	3,484	4,419

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

	1	2	3	4	5
Other including Technical Education, Open and Distance Learning etc.		35,215	4,067	4,116	5,181
TOTAL:		84,943	6,483	7,600	9,600

(c) and (d) The public expenditure on education in the country has increased from Rs. 19,616 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 1,86,498 crore (Budget Estimate) in 2008-09.

Import of wheat

*306. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has decided to extent the time limit for import of wheat from foreign countries inspite of the fact that bumper crop is expected this year and Central pool is full of wheat stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to this decision, prices of wheat in the domestic market have declined by 2 per cent recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There has been no import of wheat during 2008-09 and 2009-10 for Central Pool Stocks. However, import of wheat at zero duty is allowed in the country since 9th September, 2006.

(b) In order to contain the domestic prices and to increase the availability of wheat in the country Government had decided to allow import of wheat at zero duty.

(c) and (d) Arrivals of new Rabi crop have commenced. What prices tend to decline on fresh crop arrivals. Price of wheat in domestic market have come down by about 3.1% between 16th March and 13th April, 2010.

Supply of foodgrains to BPL families

†*307. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) like proposal under which grains would be provided to BPL families at a very low rate to satisfy hunger;

(b) if so, the outlines of the proposed scheme; and

(c) the number of families living below the poverty line?

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