

were fixed in East Central Railway. Out of these, 167 km of new line and 115 km of doubling have been completed till 31.03.2010. Remaining sections will get completed during 2010-11. There has been delay in completing projects in the target year due to reasons of delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, unprecedented floods, water logged sites, contract failures and constraint of funds.

(d) Land acquisition, forestry clearance, monitoring of progress, execution of works are regularly being pursued with concerned agencies for timely completion of targets. Steps have been taken to modify contract conditions to bring efficiency in contract management. Efforts have been made to generate additional resources for expediting completion of ongoing projects.

EDUSAT hub and Satellite Interactive Terminals

†*517. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has demanded funds from the Central Government by sending a proposal for approval to set up Central Government's award winning EDUSAT hub and 448 Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs), an independent TV Channel for education for Shaleya Teaching Department;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any decision to sanction the proposal and release the funds; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development is mainly implementing: (i) National Mission on Education through ICT which primarily focuses on higher education institutions; and (ii) the Centrally sponsored scheme "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools" with the objective of establishing an enabling environment to promote the usage of ICT in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools for imparting computer literacy and computer aided learning.

The request from the Government of Maharashtra seeking funds for Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) for the School Education Department is not covered under the above mentioned two schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Funds under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*518. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have demanded more funds for successful implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is considering to adopt new formula for the expenditure in SSA; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for making SSA more transparent and ensuring proper utilisation of funds provided under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL) : (a) and (b) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), States/UTs are provided funds on the basis of approved Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP and B) for the year, taking into account the fund sharing pattern between Central and State Governments applicable for the year. Several States, including Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh have sought additional financial support to meet the requirements arising out of implementation of the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. The 13th Finance Commission has earmarked Rs.24,068 crore for the five year period of 2010-11 to 2014-15 towards elementary education. The award of the 13th Finance Commission will augment the resources of the States to provide grants for elementary education.

(c) For effective implementation of SSA, a rigorous monitoring system has been put in place, which includes *inter alia*, submission of monthly/quarterly progress reports and periodic review meetings by States, field level monitoring through reputed institutes of social sciences and university departments of education, as also independent review missions on programme progress. In addition, statutory and independent annual financial audits and concurrent financial reviews are conducted under SSA. A system of electronic transfer of funds to State Project Offices of SSA in States and Union Territories is also in place.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

*519. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding route-kilometres of gauge conversion on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during 2005 to 2009;

(b) whether Railways are aware that train services have reduced or on some lines there are no services at all on account of above gauge conversion; and

(c) if so, the action proposed by Railways to restart the same number of train services which were available prior to gauge conversion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) 569 route Km of rail lines on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat have been converted from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge from 2004-05 to 2009-10.

(b) and (c) The train services have been introduced keeping in view the public demands, traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability, over the converted sections fit for running passenger traffic and the number of trains have not reduced in general. The Broad