

Propagation of Modern Technology in Agriculture and Rural Development

344. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the modern technology in agriculture and rural development has been propagated in the rural areas in the States;

(b) whether periodical camps are organised at the Block level in the States for disseminating information to the farmers and rural youths; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Directorate of Extension has been propagating modern technology in agriculture and rural development in the rural areas through several programmes. To improve the existing agricultural extension set up, the Department of Agriculture are being strengthened at every level, by adopting a new approach known as the Training and Visit System in various states in the country. The training and visit system has so far been adopted in 12 States namely Haryana, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan. West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

In addition, the Directorate publishes Farm Magazines, leaflets, etc. on different aspects of agriculture and rural development. Rural shows are organised in the country through Mobile Publicity Vans. Exhibitions depicting the latest agricultural extension methodology are held in different parts of the country from time to time. Crops competitions, Udyan Pandit competitions, Fruit and Vegetable shows are being organised.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its various programmes such as Lab to Land Programme, National Demonstration Pro-

ject, Operational Research Projects, Training of practising farmers and establishment of Nutrition gardens, has been propagating modern technology in agriculture and rural development in the rural areas.

Farmers are given training through Farmers Training Centres, Gram-sevak Training Centres, Yuvak Man-dais, Mahila Mandals, Charcha Man-dais etc. The artisans are trained through various training programmes organised by Khadi and Village Industries agencies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Such camps are organised at periodic intervals either at the Block Headquarters or in the interior villages. Subject Matter Specialists talk to farmers about packages of practices, improved implements and on various other Government Schemes. Exhibitions are also organised.

Rail link between Sahroom and Dharmanagar in Tripura

345. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately received any proposal from the Chief Minister of Tripura and Members of Parliament regarding rail link between Sabroom and Dharmanagar in Tripura;

(b) if so, what are the details of those proposals; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Latest reference received from the Chief Minister of Tripura was dated 1-10-81 regarding construction of Kumarghat-Agartala rail link on priority basis,

for the development of the area, whereas Shri Ajoy Biswas, M.P. in his letter dated 27-5-81 had requested for early completion of survey for new line in Tripura. No mention was made by them for extension of railway line beyond Agartala upto Sab-room. Both of them were replied that a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey (updating) has already been sponsored by N.E. Council, at their cost and the N.F. Railway has been advised to complete the survey as early as possible. Further consideration to this project will be given after the results of the survey become known, subject to availability of funds and its clearance by the Planning Commission.

Expansion of Kumedpur-Borosoi-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar Railway Line

346. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for doubling of the railway line Kumed-pur-Borsoi New-Jalpaiguri-Raninagar, on N.F. Railway; and

(b) if so, when and what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Conversion of Katihar-Barsoi-Siliguri-New Jalpaiguri M.G. Section into B.G. (209.01 Kms.) as a part of doubling of Kumedpur-Barsoi-New Jalpaiguri-Raninagar section has already been approved and included in the Railway Budget for 1981-82 at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.70 crores, with an initial provision of Rs. 50 lakhs during the year. Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for the proposed conversion sanctioned in July, 1981 is *in progress*. The construction work will be taken in hand after the survey is

completed and the project estimate sanctioned.

Introduction of Super Fast Train... between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta

347. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the people of North Bengal, Assam and Eastern Region for running a super fast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was decided by the Railways to introduce such a super fast train;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay to introduce the train; and

(d) by when such a train is likely to be introduced in the above line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Introduction of Super Fast train between New Bongaigaon and Calcutta is not feasible on account of shortage of broad gauge coaching stock, saturated line capacity on sections enroute and inadequate terminal facilities both at New Bongaigaon and Sealdah/Howrah.

Palace-on-Wheels

348. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a London firm, allegedly blacklisted by the ITDC, has been recommended for appointment as publicity agents for the proposed "Palace on Wheels" under the programme of "tourism attraction" by the Indian Railways;