

- ii. The doubling works are undertaken when the line capacity of the existing sections gets saturated. The portion between Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari (86.56 Km) has been surveyed for doubling but not found operationally justified at present.

(e) Doubling of Mavelikara-Chenganur (12.30 Km) section on Kottayam route is at advance stage of completion and is expected to be commissioned during 2011-12. For the balance ongoing works of Mulanturutti-Mavelikara via Kottayam, regular meetings are being held with State Government Authorities to expedite land availability and to sort out other issues for expeditious completion of the projects.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Reorientation of farm education

1396. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Vice-Chancellors of various agricultural universities across the country have urged Government that farm education be reoriented to meet global challenges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether farm education has assumed considerable urgency in view of the dismal state of affairs in the agriculture sector; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Union Government to modernize and improve standards of agricultural universities to meet global challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) to (c) Reorientation of farm education is a continuous process which is undertaken through the collective efforts of ICAR and Agricultural Universities. ICAR regularly provides policy, professional and the partial financial support under the scheme 'Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India' to upgrade/modernize the infrastructure and facilities for teaching-learning, and to improve the quality of education.

Setting up of vegetable clusters near cities

†1397. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a gap between the demand and the supply of vegetables in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.