

(c) Considering agrarian distress of farmers in Maharashtra, Government of India announced three year Rehabilitation Package in 2006 for implementation in select districts of Maharashtra comprising immediate and medium-term measures aimed at establishing sustainable and viable farming livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. Government of Maharashtra has reported expenditure of Rs. 4314.36 crore upto June 30, 2011 and benefits on account of implementation of the package include interest waiver (9.39 lakh farmers), assured irrigation (1.21 lakh ha. potential), micro-irrigation (coverage of 98893 ha. area), construction of check-dams (9072 completed), watershed development (90552 ha. area), water harvesting structures (3000 farm ponds), distribution of improved seed (15.31 lakh qtl.), coverage under National Horticulture Mission (52128 ha area) and allied activities (25238 milch animals distributed). Period for implementation of non-credit components of the package has been extended by 2 years *i.e.* upto September 30, 2011. Consequently, number of suicides by farmers in Maharashtra due to agrarian distress has reduced as stated in answer to parts (a) and (b) above.

Resource mobilisation for projects

†*354. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are considering to hike the A.C. fares and discontinue the Tatkal reservation in the process of mobilising resources for completing its ambitious projects;
- (b) the loss incurred to the Railways due to Tatkal reservation service; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) Revision of fares is an ongoing activity depending on what the traffic can bear. There is no proposal to discontinue the Tatkal reservation for the present.

(b) There is no loss on account of Tatkal Reservation. During the Financial year 2010-11, Indian Railways earned a revenue of Rs. 729 crores from Tatkal charges.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending rail projects

†*355. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the rail projects are pending due to tussle between State Governments and the Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any coordination committee in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for timely execution of project and to overcome various local problems including acquisition of land and forestry clearance, etc., regular meetings are held with the State Government Authorities.

(c) No, Sir. Disputes, if any, are resolved through meeting of the Railway Authorities and the State Government Authorities at appropriate level and this is a continuous process.

(d) Does not arise.

Axle factory at New Jalpaiguri

†*356. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the axle factory has started or construction work of it has been initiated or foundation stone for it has been laid in New Jalpaiguri, as per the declaration made by the Minister in the last Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent by Government on this factory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) The foundation stone for setting up of axle factory at New Jalpaiguri has been laid.

(b) The foundation stone has been laid on 13.09.2010.

(c) The axle factory at New Jalpaiguri is planned to be set up through assured offtake model with 100% equity by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited on the land to be given by Railways.

Assessment of loss from 2G scam

†*357. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI and CAG have made different assessment regarding loss in 2G scam;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.