

#### **Flood and soil erosion in Assam**

\*244. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cultivable land and crop land rendered infertile during floods in Assam this year;

(b) whether Government has proposed any provision to compensate the farmers who lost their cultivable land during floods and erosion in Assam for the last three years and the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government of Assam has reported that 4.17 lakh hectare of cropped area was damaged due to heavy rains/floods during 2011-12.

State Governments are mainly responsible for taking necessary measures in wake of natural calamities to mitigate its impact through utilization of funds available in State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). In case of calamities of '*severe nature*', when available resources under SDRF account are inadequate for the purpose, additional assistance from Government of India is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Under Schemes of SDRF/NDRF, financial assistance is provided for gratuitous relief as immediate help to overcome distress and not as compensation of loss in wake of natural calamities. Objective of providing relief assistance (as per Government of India approved items and norms) is to extend some support to affected people who have lost their means of sustenance so that affected persons can restart their economic activities. Under SDRF, during last three years (2008-11), Rs.558.16 crore were released to Assam and Rs. 276.96 crore is allocation of Assam in current year (2011-12), of which Rs. 124.63 crore has been released so far. In addition, Rs.300.00 crore was released during 2008-09 from NDRF for undertaking measures to mitigate adverse impact of natural calamities in Assam.

#### **Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa railway line**

†\*245. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has taken a decision of gauge conversion on the Ratlam-Mhow Khandwa railway line;

(b) if so, by when the work would start and by when it would be completed;

(c) the amount earmarked in the budget for this purpose; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola (472.60 km.) has been included in the Railway Budget 2008-09. Part estimate for Ratlam-Mhow-Indore and Akola-Akot sections have been sanctioned. Execution of the work has been taken up in phases. Ratlam-Fatehabad (75 km) section is planned to be completed during 2012-13. An expenditure of Rs.37.74 crore has been incurred up to March, 2011 and an outlay of Rs.29 crore has been provided for this project for the year 2011-12.

#### **Scholarship for girl child**

\*246. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scholarship for girl child of Group D railway employees has been increased to Rs.1200 per month;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked and spent so far, zone-wise, especially in South-Central Railway for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) A scheme of scholarship for girl child of erstwhile group D staff (working in grade pay Rs. 1,800 and below) for pursuing higher education was announced in the Rail Budget 2009-10. The amount of each scholarship under this scheme has been Rs. 1,200/- per month since its inception. The term higher education means all degree and diploma programmes of not less than one year from recognized institutes/universities. The scheme is effective from 1st April, 2009.

(c) The amount earmarked and spent so far, zone-wise is as under: