

(a) whether Members of Parliament have lodged a protest against Government's guidelines on spending of their MPLADS funds and seeking absolute freedom to use the funds; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The Ministry has received a number of representations from Members of Parliament, expressing reservations on the MPLADS guidelines, mainly on the limit of Rs. 50 lakhs per year from MPLADS fund to Societies/Trusts. A suggestion has also been received to do away with MPLADS guidelines issued from time to time and leave MPLADS fund on the discretion of MPs.

(b) These requests have been sent to both the Committees of Parliament on MPLADS for their views and suggestions.

#### **Sanction of new projects**

\*348. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Railways would consider sanctioning of ten new projects, namely, Meramandali-Angul-Talcher-Chhendipada Dedicated Industrial Rail Corridor, Bhadrachalam Road, (Andhra Pradesh)-Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh, Bargarh-Navapara-*via* Padmapur (120 kms), Talcher-Gopalpur (245 kms), Puri-Konark (35 kms), Rupsa-Bangriposi to 'Gorumahisani' (35 kms), Badampahar to Keonjhar (70 kms), Berhampur-Phulbani (169.8 kms), Khurda Road-Rajatgarh bye passing Bhubaneswar (59 kms) and Rayagada-Gopalpur *via* Gunupur-Bhishmagiri and Digapahandi?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Lanjigarh Road - Junagarh new line (56 km.) and Talcher-Bimlagarh new line (154 km.) are sanctioned projects. Work is in progress on these projects.

Survey for new line between Keonjhar (Kendujhargarh)-Badampahar (80 km.) has been completed and surveys for the following new line projects have been taken up:—

- (i) Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh) Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh.
- (ii) Berhampur-Phulbani.
- (iii) Khurda Road-Rajathgarh bye passing Bhubaneswar.
- (iv) Rayagada-Gopalpur *via* Gunupur, Bhismagiri and Digapahandi.

Presently, there is no plan of Ministry of Railways for Meramandali- Angul-Talcher-Chhendipada Dedicated Industrial Rail Corridor project.

The new line proposals of Nawapara Road-Bargarh Road (*via* Padampur), Talcher-Gopalpur, Puri-Konark were surveyed in the past but were not considered viable

for sanction. Rupsa-Bangriposi to Gorumahisani new line proposal was also surveyed but alternate alignment from Chakulia to Buramara for providing connectivity of Rupsa-Bangriposi section to Howrah-Tatanagar route was considered feasible and sanctioned.

#### **Conservation of indigenous seeds**

†\*349. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and the names of multinational companies which have entered in agriculture sector;
- (b) the seeds which these companies are selling in the country;
- (c) whether Government has got tested these seeds thoroughly and whether agricultural experts have agreed on the pros and cons of these seeds; and
- (d) the effect of these seeds on indigenous seed and the scheme formulated by the Ministry for conservation of indigenous seeds alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The list of multinational companies which are selling the seeds of cotton, rice, maize, pearl millet, mustard, sunflower and vegetables etc. in India are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Seeds of notified varieties of various crops are tested for biotic and abiotic stresses including yield potential, nutritional parameters etc. for three years at different locations under All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Project of ICAR before recommendation by the Central Seed Committee for its notification. Also, seeds including non-notified varieties of both public and private seed companies including multinational companies are tested by drawing samples under the provisions of the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to ensure that such seeds conform to the minimum limits of germination and purity as prescribed. Further, seeds of coarse cereals, oilseeds, pulses, wheat, paddy and fodder imported by the companies including multinational companies are required to be tested through multi-location trials of ICAR before allowing bulk import of such seeds as per the provisions contained in the New Policy on Seed Development, 1988 as revised from time to time. Imported seeds are also required to be tested as per the Plant Quarantine Order, 2003 before the quarantine/customs clearance. As far as GM seeds are concerned, there are well laid down procedures of trial, evaluation and testing before its environmental release under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.