

Gauge conversion of railway lines in Gujarat

*409. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of narrow gauge and metre gauge railway lines in Gujarat under Western Railway; and
- (b) the time-period needed by Railways to convert all narrow and metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge lines in Gujarat under Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY) : (a) As on 31st March, 2011, under Western Railway, Gujarat State has 1,133 kilometres Metre Gauge and 684 kilometres Narrow Gauge railway lines in terms of route kilometres.

(b) No time period has been fixed for converting all Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge lines of Gujarat to Broad Gauge. Conversion work in 529 kilometres has been taken up/sanctioned.

Health hazards for children of schools near main roads

*410. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that schools which are near main roads in the country are health hazards for the students of such schools who suffer from respiratory and other diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures Government proposes to take in the matter to protect the children of such schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) No specific study has been conducted on the health hazards to the students of schools located near main roads in the country. The location for the construction of a school building depends on several factors which *inter-alia* include availability of land, location demarcated for schools in the Master Plan and Municipal bye-laws. The reservation and allotment of land for schools falls in the purview of the State Governments and Local Bodies. Paucity of land constrains the relocation of existing schools.

The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) require school buildings to conform to Municipal bye-laws. The Central Board of

Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it mandatory for schools to obtain certificates from health authorities before granting affiliation to a school.

Drought in Karnataka

*411. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several States in the country, including Karnataka, are severely affected by drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Centre has extended any financial assistance to the drought affected States;

(d) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to Karnataka and other drought affected States in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) During 2011-12, only two States namely Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, were reported to be affected by drought. Districts declared as drought affected by the State Governments are as under:-

Karnataka (23 Districts)

Ramnagar, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Chamarajanagar, Mysore, Mandya, Bellary, Koppal, Raichure, Gulbarga, Yadgiri, Bidar, Bagalkote, Bijapur, Gadag, Dharwad, Hasan, Chikkamagalur, Belgaum, Davangere and Haveri.

Andhra Pradesh (22 Districts)

Mahabubnagar, Ananthapur, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, Prakasam, Kurnool, Adilabad, Warangal, YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, Medak, Khammam, Guntur, Rangareddy, Krishna, Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Vizianagaram, Nizamabad and SPSR Nellore.

(c) to (e) Government of India approved an assistance of Rs. 186.68 crores to Karnataka and Rs.706.15 crores to Andhra Pradesh from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) subject to the adjustment of 75% of balance available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) account for the instant calamities. Sanction of Rs.8.00 crore from Special Component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has also been made to Andhra Pradesh for repair of damaged drinking water supply works.