

been completed and commissioned. On Ahmedabad-Mehsana route, one line has been converted to Broad Gauge and for conversion of another metre gauge line, survey has been taken up.

(b) Gauge conversion of sanctioned projects for these sections have already been completed.

Non-stoppage of trains at Silli station

†*211. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether passengers have to face a lot of hardships due to non-stoppage of train numbers 483/484, 8607/8608 and 3303/3304 at Silli railway station of Hatia/Ranchi Division under South-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the Silli railway station is about half a kilometre away from Silli-Banta pakki road which is in a very dilapidated condition; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Railways for constructing this road?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Silli station is being served by 2 pairs of Mail/Express trains and 6 pairs of Passenger trains which are adequately catering to the needs of passengers of Silli station. Provision of stoppage of 53337/53338 (old no. 483/484) Garbeta-Ranchi Passenger, 13319/13320 (old no. 18607/18608) Ranchi-Baidyanathdham Express and 13303/13304 Dhanbad-Ranchi Intercity Express at Silli is neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible, at present.

(b) Silli-Banta Pakki road is half KM away from Silli Railway station under South Eastern Railway. But the road is not under the jurisdiction of Railway. It is under the jurisdiction of State Government of Jharkhand. Any repairs/maintenance of this road is to be done by State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

UGC scholarships for students studying abroad

*212. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated by UGC, as part of scholarships, to students studying abroad;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the total number of applications received by UGC seeking scholarships for the same; and

(c) the total number of scholarships given for this academic year?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that it does not have any scholarship schemes for students studying abroad. However, this year the UGC has started CV Raman Post Doctoral Fellowships for Indian Scholars to undertake research in Universities in the United States of America. A total of 300 candidates are eligible under this Fellowship. The Fellows are entitled to fellowship amount of US \$ 3000 per month and a one time personal contingency grant of upto a maximum of Rs. 50,000, from the UGC, to cover for visa, airport transfer, medical insurance etc.

(b) and (c) A total of 343 applications have been received by the UGC for the CV Raman Post Doctoral Fellowships and out of these applications, 199 have been shortlisted.

Impact of drought in the country

*213. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where Central Government team was sent to assess the impact of drought in the country;

(b) the details of States which were found to be drought affected;

(c) the details of drought relief package announced and released, so far, to various States, State-wise;

(d) whether the Central Government team visited Uttar Pradesh which has faced severe drought during the current year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (f) Inter Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT) were deputed to visit the States of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan which had declared drought during