

construction. The first tranche of phase I Loan Agreement for 90 billion JPY (Rs. 6300 Crore) was signed in March, 2010. The Engineering Services Consultancy Loan Agreements for Phase-I for 2.6 billion JPY (Rs. 183 Crores) and for Phase-II for 1.6 billion JPY (Rs. 113 Crores) have been signed in October, 2009 and July, 2010 respectively.

(c) The repayment period of the JICA loan is 40 years including 10 year grace period and interest rate is 0.20% per annum for works and procurement of related goods and services and 0.01% for consultancy services with commitment charge of 0.10% per annum on unused portion of the loan.

Enrolment and drop-out rates

*311. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of increase/decrease in percentage of enrolment and drop-out rates of children in Government schools since implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act;

(b) whether Government has developed any mechanism to increase the enrolment rate and check drop-out rate in Government schools;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is considering to include teaching of tribal children in their mother tongue up to primary level as part of RTE Act to inculcate interest in their own culture and environment and reduce dropout rate as well as enable faster rate of learning; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at primary level has gone up from 115.63 in 2009-10 to 118.94 in 2011-12 and GER at upper primary level has also gone up from 75.8 to 86.52 during the above period. The average annual drop-out rate at primary level has declined from 9.11% in 2009-10 to 6.50% in 2011-12. The data on GER and Average Drop-out rate for Government schools is not separately available.

(b) and (c) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which is a centrally sponsored scheme to assist State achieve the objectives of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted to check drop out, which includes *inter-alia* enhancing access to primary and upper primary schools, strengthening school infrastructure, improving the teachers pupil ratio, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms, mid-day-meals in schools as well as strategies promoting elementary education for girls and children belonging to disadvantaged groups as also for community mobilization.

(d) and (e) Section 29(2) (f) of the RTE Act provides that the medium of instruction shall, as far as practicable, be in child's mother tongue. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 endorses the use of child's first/home language in education. However, it is for the academic authority specified by the State Government/ Union Territories with legislature to take a view in the matter.

Railway projects

*312. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of railway projects on Cachar-Jiribam and Jiribam-Imphal Sections;
- (b) the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the steps Government intends to take to complete these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) There is no sanctioned railway project like Cachar-Jiribam. However, construction of new broad gauge line from Jiribam to Imphal (Tupul) (125 km) has been taken up. Project has been taken up in two phases *i.e.* Jiribam-Tupul and Tupul-Imphal. Contract for earthwork, bridges and tunnels in Jiribam-Tupul section have been awarded and works are in progress in various stages. 12.5 km of Jiribam-Dholakhal track linking has been completed. Jiribam-Tupul is targeted for completion by March, 2015 and Tupul-Imphal section is targeted for completion by March, 2017.

(b) Progress of work is badly hampered due to severe militancy, poor law and order conditions and frequent economic blockade, poor condition of NH-53 leading to problems in movement of material and machinery for construction, difficult geographical conditions etc.

- (c) Following steps are being taken :