

(c) Bringing improvement in the quality of mail delivery is a continuous activity. A regular mechanism to monitor quality of services is in place. New initiatives have also been taken to improve mail operations and delivery of mail. As part of 'Mail Network Optimization Project' (MNOP), the online tracking system for Speed Post has been improvised for the benefit of the common people. Online track and trace system for Registered Post has also been introduced so that people can track the status of their Registered mail on the website of the Department of Posts ([www.indiapost.gov.in](http://www.indiapost.gov.in)). In order to improve mail operations, processes followed in mail handling have been improvised, the network has been optimized and an internal monitoring system for mail has been developed.

#### **Misuse of pesticides**

\*531. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the report of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) indicates blatant violations by Government agencies, such as, agricultural universities, agricultural departments and other boards which have recommended use of pesticides for crops and pests not approved by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take to contain this misuse of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The CSE report on 'State of Pesticide Regulations in India' has made several observations on registration and use of pesticides and have stated that "the pesticide recommendations made by State Agriculture Universities, Agriculture Departments and other Boards for a crop do not adhere to the pesticides that the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC) has registered for these crops. The Agriculture Universities, Departments and Boards have recommended many pesticides that have not been registered for some crops".

All State Governments have been advised to ensure that the advisories on pesticides usage that are issued by their Agriculture Universities and Agriculture Departments are strictly in accordance with the terms under which these pesticides have been registered by CIB&RC. Government of India promotes the safe and judicious use

of pesticides and works with State Governments, State Agriculture Universities, pesticide dealers, farmers etc. towards this end.

**Broad-gauging of Indore-Khandwa railway line**

†\*532. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the broad-gauging of the railway line from Indore to Khandwa is being done at an extremely slow pace;

(b) the scheduled date for completion of broad-gauging of this line and the cost escalated in this project due to delay; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to provide fast and convenient railway transport between Western Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for the convenience of people of this area?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Gauge conversion of Indore-Khandwa has been taken up as a part of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Mhow-Khandwa-Amalakhurd-Akot-Akola (472.60 km.) sanctioned gauge conversion project. Project execution has been taken up from both ends. On Ratlam end, conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad section (80 km.) has been completed in 2012-13 and Fatehabad-Indore section (40 km.) is targeted for completion in 2013-14. On Akola end, part estimate for Akot-Akola section has been sanctioned, but execution could not be taken up for want of forestry clearance of Amalakhurd-Akot section which lies ahead and passes through Melghat Tiger Reserve. Approximately, expenditure of Rs. 120 crore has been incurred upto March, 2013. An outlay of Rs. 119.83 crore has been proposed for this project in the Budget 2013-14. Project is progressing as per availability of resources.

(b) Target date for entire project has not been fixed. Cost escalation of railway projects is on account of large shelf of ongoing projects, having huge throwforward with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread out thus prolonging period of completion. Projects also get delayed for want of forestry clearance, delay in land availability, law and order issues and failure of contractor. Depending upon their relative priority, projects get completed.

(c) Indian Railways do not operate trains on State-wise basis as railway network

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.