

**Railway link between Konark and Paradip**

\*225. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations/proposals have been received by Railways for a railway link between Konark and Paradip, if so, the details and status thereof;

(b) the present status of the Haridaspur-Paradip broad gauge rail link project along with the time-line fixed for its completion; and

(c) the initiative taken by Government for its timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Representations from Government/Public representatives are received at various levels in Ministry of Railways, Zonal and Divisional Railways. Proposal for a rail link between Konark and Paradip has not been received in the recent past.

(b) The project of Haridaspur-Paradip (82 km.) new line, in the State of Odisha, was included in the Budget 1996-97. In 2005, the project was transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). SPV was formed in September, 2006. All private land acquisition has been completed. Land acquisition of Government land is in advanced stage. Forest land, stage-I clearance has been received. Earthwork, blanketing and bridgework have been taken up for Haridaspur-Paradip new line project. Overall physical progress is 56%. The latest anticipated cost of the project is ₹ 1186 crore. An amount of ₹ 620 crore has been spent up to 31.03.2016. An outlay of ₹ 200 crore has been provided for the year 2016-17. No target has been fixed for completion of the project.

(c) To expedite the completion of Haridaspur-Paradip new line project, an enhanced allocation of ₹ 200 crore has been provided in 2016-17 compared to ₹ 36.8 crore provided in the last financial year, *i.e.* 2015-16. In addition, regular coordination meetings are held with State Governments to resolve land acquisition and local law and order related problems at the highest level.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO USTARRED QUESTIONS****Input grants for horticultural and cash crops**

†2142. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the initial cost in horticultural crops, like orange, mandarin orange and cash crops like cumin seed, isabgol etc. is excessive;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether input grant is provided considering the initial cost of crops of this category as base, in case of crop loss; and

(c) whether Government proposes to enhance agricultural input grants on account of initial cost of horticultural and cash crops being excessive, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) Yes, Sir. The initial cost of cultivation of perennial horticulture and cash crops are higher which includes crops like orange and mandarin orange due to higher input costs towards land preparation, cost of planting material, integrated nutrient and pest management etc. As far as crops like cumin seed and isabgol are concerned, the initial costs are lower compared to perennial horticulture crops.

(b) The assistance provided under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for these crops is based on the cost norms fixed on the basis of cost of cultivation. The input costs are also taken into account by providing grant in case of crop loss.

(c) As the cost norms were revised in the year 2014 under MIDH, there is no proposal to enhance the input grants at present.

#### **Grant to farmers for damage to crops**

†2143. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which damaged crops of farmers and the affected farmers are estimated;

(b) whether it is a fact that the reckoning of tenant farmers is made on the basis of agricultural census of 2010, which is very less than the present number; and

(c) whether Government proposes to give grants to all the farmers who have been actually affected, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): (a) The State Government is primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.