

opportunities cannot be curbed. However, several steps have been taken to improve the economic conditions of farmers and making agriculture attractive to farmers. These include, *inter alia*, implementation of schemes like, National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana, Soil Health Card, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Neem Coated Urea, creation of a unified National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), etc. Further, the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of major agricultural commodities has been progressively increased to ensure remunerative price to the farmers.

**Targets set for land development and modernisation
of facilities under Railways**

*249. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways could not achieve several targets set over the past two years towards development of railway land and modernisation of facilities in Railways despite having enough funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for the slow progress against the targets set for the doubling, electrification and maintenance of railway tracks in the country; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Railways for improving the railway infrastructure speedily?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) Modernisation of facilities in Railways *inter alia* involves development of Railway land is an on-going, continuous process on Indian Railways. In the last two years Railways has spent ₹ 1.50 lakh crore for modernization in Railways *inter alia* about 9066 hectares of Railway land got developed for laying tracks of New Lines, Doubling/Tripling, Gauge Conversion and other infrastructural facilities and achieved most of the set targets. For improving the Railways infrastructure speedily, Ministry of Railways has taken many steps *e.g.*:

- (1) (i) Ministry of Railways has approached State Governments to form Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) with Ministry of Railways to undertake mutually identified rail infrastructure projects for project development, resources mobilization and monitoring.
- (ii) 17 State Governments (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh) had consented for formation of JVCs with Ministry of Railways.

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up JVCs have been signed with 8 State Governments (Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Haryana).
- (iv) JVCs with 3 State Governments (Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Kerala) have already been formed.
- (2) Indian Railways has adopted Detailed Project Report (DPR) approach for new works which has resulted into saving of time in starting the work. Earlier, it used to take 2 to 3 years for starting a work which has now been brought down to less than a year.
- (3) The Zonal Railways have been delegated full powers with respect to acceptance of works contracts and to sanction estimates. This has resulted in cutting down time for estimate sanctions and tenders.

National Policy on Fishery

*250. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any National Policy on Fishery, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by Government for the welfare of fishermen and for enhancing fish production in the country; and
- (c) the initiatives taken by Government in the last two years to ensure that climate change does not affect fish production adversely?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had promulgated a 'Comprehensive Marine Fishing Policy' in November, 2004 with the objectives of (i) to augment marine fish production of the country up to the sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses, (ii) to ensure socio-economic security of the artisanal fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation, (iii) to ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity.

(b) The Central Plan Scheme has been restructured into an umbrella scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' to increase both fish production and productivity in the country. The steps taken for enhancing fish production in the country include intensification of aquaculture practices, introduction of diversified fish species, utilization of open water bodies for cage culture and pen culture, establishment of fish hatcheries and brood banks, promotion of mariculture