

1	2	3	4
Other misc. Expenditure including salary, wages of employees, security contracts, liveries, maintenance of vehicles etc.	90.14	90.42	99.10

[English]

**Calcutta Circular Railway**

3155. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has demanded to complete the missing link between Princepghat and Majerhat of the Calcutta Circular Railway and to electrify the entire stretch and laying the double track; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The entire 13.5 km. non-electrified single line project from Dum Dum Jn. to Princepghat has been commissioned in states for traffic by 17.6.90. except the part from Princepghat to Majerhat. Fresh Techno-economic survey for single line from Princepghat to Majerhat has been taken up by Eastern Railway. The Techno-Economic Study for doubling and electrification of Circular Railway has been taken up by West Bengal Govt. through M/s. RITES.

**Conversion of Land**

3156. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under cultivation for cash crop during 1994 and 1995;

(b) the extent to which the area has been converted from food crops cultivation into cash crops cultivation during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to promote the cultivation of food crops and to prevent this conversion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The area under cultivation of cash crops during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows :

Crop	Area in Thousand Hectares	
	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3
Oilseeds	26897	25260
Sugarcane	3422	3815

1	2	3
Cotton	7321	7925
Jute and Mesta	885	944
Coconut	1635	1669
Potato	1047	1089
Onion	368	384

(b) The total area under foodgrains during the last two years i.e. 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 122.75 and 123.55 million hectares respectively. Thus at the All India level there is no diversion of area from foodgrains to other crops. The State-wise position of cropped area under foodgrains is given in the statement enclosed. Marginal decline in area under foodgrains during 1995-96 in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. is attributed to weather fluctuations.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of the foodgrains, various centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented namely, Integrated Cereal Development Programme based on Cropping System areas for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme is also being implemented.

**STATEMENT**

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)	
	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6870.9	6660.0
Arunachal Pradesh	189.9	188.5
Assam	2740.6	2667.7
Bihar	8710.8	8685.3
Goa	65.9	65.9
Gujarat	3992.2	4202.3
Haryana	3894.9	4026.8
Himachal Pradesh	850.2	849.2
Jammu & Kashmir	888.7	888.7
Karnataka	6983.6	7078.9
Kerala	541.0	534.0
Madhya Pradesh	17721.0	17496.8
Maharashtra	14188.1	13531.4
Manipur	164.6	165.5
Meghalaya	131.9	130.1
Mizoram	75.6	80.2
Nagaland	184.3	186.3
Orissa	5772.0	5776.2
Punjab	5861.7	5921.4
Rajasthan	11628.9	12907.7
Sikkim	76.1	75.1

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	4026.8	4477.2
Tripura	275.7	275.7
Uttar Pradesh	20273.0	20150.1
West Bengal	6530.9	6412.6
A & N Island	14.0	14.0
D & N Haveli	18.7	18.7
Daman & Diu	3.3	3.3
Delhi	46.1	46.1
Pondicherry	32.4	32.4
All India	122753.8	123548.1

#### Passenger Amenities on Trivandrum Railway Station

3157. SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide more passenger amenities at the Trivandrum Central Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A work for provision of additional terminal facilities at a cost of Rs. 2.65 crore has been included in the Budget 1996-97.

#### Electrification of Rail Section

3158. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up electrification of Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). there is no proposal to electrify Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of Eastern Railway over which the Traffic density is low at present and does not qualify for electrification.

#### Facilities to Passengers

3159. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to improve facilities to passengers at the Railways Stations of Bhongir, Aleir, Bibinagar, Nalgonda, Chityal, Miryalguda in Nalgonda District (SC Railway) recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) Improvements to facilities and amenities at railway stations is a continuous process which is undertaken by including suitable works in the Annual Works programme of the Railway and is dependent on the volume of traffic handled at a station, the availability of funds and relative priorities.

Accordingly, works of provision of a cover over the platforms at Bhongir and Bibinagar; and paving of the platform at Bhongir; and raising of the height of the second platform at Nalgonda and the extension of the platform at Aler have been taken up.

#### Gauge Conversion in Karnataka

3160. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals for conversion of Railway lines from meter gauge to broad gauge in Karnataka are awaiting clearance from the Government

(b) if so, the details of each project alongwith the allocation of funds for each of the projects separately

(c) whether any new projects for conversion have been undertaken in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and criteria being adopted for their selection; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, work on Mysore-Hassan line which was included in Budget 95-96 has been taken up now after obtaining approval of CCEA.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This project would be completed by 31.5.97.

#### Halt at Sultanganj

3161. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of pilgrims visit Deoghar (Bihar) and they start their journey on foot from a railway station called 'Sultanganj' in Bihar.

(b) whether in this context a suggestion has been made that the Brahmaputra Express train may have a brief halt at Sultanganj for the facility of the pilgrims and

(c) if so, whether the railways would examine and approve of the suggestion?