

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Of course, there is anger.

SHRII C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : As everybody knows, investment is not made on the basis of States. It is based on routes. So, when any investment in lines is decided it is based on routes. (*Interruptions*) Even based on routes, there was a lot of investment in Kerala which no other State could get. (*Interruptions*) A clear picture about the gauge conversion was not there. Now that picture is available. The question of diversification of traffic to Shouranur—Mangalore will come only when the Konkan railway project traffic comes.

Besides that, your anxiety is whether we will be able to take up and complete it or not. We have now taken up the survey. By the end of the year, the survey report will be available. Before the next budget when it comes, it would depend upon the resources available. Why do we say about availability of resources? Please tell the finance Minister and the Prime Minister to make available resources so that we could be able to take up. If you only hammer the Railway Minister, nothing will happen.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Sir, as far as the Prime Minister is concerned, we—all the MPs from Kerala—had met Prime Minister. Apart from meeting the Railway Minister, the Minister of State and others, we have met the Prime Minister all together. The Prime Minister was very happy to see all the Members from Kerala coming together. He appreciated it. I do not think there will be any difficulty from his side.

It is very difficult to get a survey for any line even for doubling. But in this particular case, the survey was ordered as early as 1991. Is there any explanation for not going through the survey or progressing the ordered survey and leaving it there till, say, two years?

I would submit that this is a gross neglect. There is an urgent need to rectify this neglect. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to give an

assurance that this work, after survey, will be taken up immediately and it will be brought in the next budget for doubling the Shoranur—Mangalore railway line?

SHRI K. C. JAFFER SHARIEF : I categorically assure the Member that survey will be completed but so far as the work is concerned, as he gets the money to me from the Finance Minister, I will be able to take up the work.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The line is connecting my constituency, Mangalore to Kerala. All along, I have been hearing the Minister saying that a survey is ordered and that a survey is required before laying the line. We can see that this is only doubling the line and there is already an existing line and only a parallel line is required to be put. So, I do not think that any survey is required. They are only trying to postpone the laying of the line. The Minister, if he really minds, can definitely order for doubling the line. Now, under the guise of getting the survey report, they are deleting the project.

I would like to know from the Minister whether they are going to give top priority to the doubling of Shoranur—Mangalore line.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF : We are talking about traffic survey now.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to that question.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Prices of Essential Commodities

26. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY :  
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, bread, milk, cooking gas, molasses, chilli, edible oils and spices have been increasing since 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the wholesale price indices of these commodities as on July, 1991 and June, 1993; and

(d) the measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to contain the rising trend of prices of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) and (b) :  
The retail prices of selected essential com-

modities like rice, wheat, sugar, bread, milk, cooking gas, molasses, Chillies and spices as in July, 1991, 1992 and June, 1993 are given in the attached Statement I

(c) : Percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities as on July, 1991 July, 1992, and June 1993 are given in the attached Statement II

(d) : The Government has been taking appropriate measures on regular basis for containing the prices of essential commodities through providing relief in excise duties, provision of finances and credit, liberalisation of imports, improved infrastructure facilities, increased production, better distribution net work and strengthening of the Public Distribution System.

## STATEMENT - I

Retail Prices of selected essential commodities at Delhi as on July, 1991, July, 1992, June, 1993 (Rs. per Kg)

Commodity	Retail Prices as on		
	July, 1991	July, 1992	June, 1993
Rice	5.75	7.00	7.95
Wheat	3.75	4.50	4.50
Sugar	10.00	10.50	12.00
Bread	4.20	5.50	5.50
Milk	8.00	10.00	10.00
Cooking Gas (Per 14.2 kg. L.P.G. Cylinder)	67.90	67.90	82.77
Chillies (Per 100 GM)	5.00	7.00	4.75
Cummim Seed	52.00	110.00	98.00

Commodity	Retail Prices as on		
	July, 1991	July, 1992	June, 1993
Haldi	3.00 (100 GM)	4.50 (100 GM)	5.75 (Per 200 GM)
Molasses* (Rs. per tonne)			
Grade - I	120.00	N.A.	144.00
Grade - II	90.00	N.A.	115.00
Grade - III	72.00	N.A.	86.00

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Super Bazar,

\* Source : Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

N.A. : Not Available

## STATEMENT-II

Percentage variation in wholesale price indices of selected commodities as on July, 1991, 1991, July, 1992 and June, 1993

Commodity	Percentage variation		
	July, 1992 over July, 1991	June, 1993 over July, 1992	June, 1992 over July, 1991
Rice	+ 25.8	- 2.3	+ 22.9
Wheat	+ 29.5	+ 4.7	+ 35.5
Sugar	+ 16.4	+ 13.0	+ 31.6
Bread	22.3	+ 2.8	+ 25.7
Milk	+ 7.7	+ 11.4	+ 20.0
Cooking Gas	+ 15.3	+ 30.5	+ 50.4
Chillies	+ 48.3	(-) 63.1	(-) 45.3
Haldi	+ 53.8	- 33.9	+ 1.6
Molasses	NA	NA	NA

NA - Not Available