

bottlenecks. Now that we are progressively implementing the unigauge policy, these transshipment bottlenecks are being removed and there is no chance for theft. There is also guarantee for carrying the goods from one point to the other at a greater speed.

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has conducted some survey to find out as to what is total loss borne by the railways on the catering account. And what steps are being taken to provide better services to the people and, at the same time, earn something for the railways?

**SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** Sir, catering is being done by both the private sector and the department.

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:** I am referring to the departmental catering.

**SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** So far as private catering is concerned, we do not know about it, but so far as departmental catering is concerned, there are no losses.

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:** Sir, that does not answer my question fully. If there are no losses, what are they going to do to provide better services to the people. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** The catering to the MPs is a losing proposition. We know, at least, that much.

There is something like price elasticity. Can it be said that the losses due to ticketless travelling is increasing because of enhancement of railway fares? One of the principles of railway fare structure is to increase as much as it can be borne by the passengers. If the fares

cannot be borne by the passengers then there is a likelihood that there will be more of ticketless travelling. Is that happening?

**SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** It is not true.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have replied to the question.

**SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:** There is no increase in the ticketless travelling.

### **Agro-Industries Corporation**

\*246. **SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where the Agro-Industries Corporations have been established with Central assistance;

(b) the number of such Corporations running in losses, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts made by the Union Government to improve their viability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (**SHRI ARVIND NETAM**): (a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) On the basis of Annual Reports and Audited Accounts received so far, the State Agro Industries Corporations of Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have incurred losses on accumulated basis.

(c) Efforts for improving the viability have been made through monitoring of performance and participation of Central Government nominees in the meetings of Board of Directors of these Corporations.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question I raised was based on the third report of Standing Committee on Agriculture. Shri Nitish Kumar is its chairman. The report of that committee was presented in the Parliament in which it was stated that:

*[English]*

"The Committee observed that cost of the Agro Industries Corporations are running under losses. However, no efforts have been made by the Central Ministry to improve the situation. The Committee recommends that Central Ministries should give guidelines and directions to the States, from time to time, and ways and means should be found out to improve Agro Industries Corporations."

*[Translation]*

I would like to know as to what concrete steps have been taken by the Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of that report and what guidelines have been issued to the State Governments. I want to know about these guidelines.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as these Corporations are concerned, they were first run by the states and the centre on the basis of 50:50 ratio but later on the State Governments took over the charge completely. All of them are not running in losses. Four profit earning Corporations are running in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat

and Punjab. As observed by the Committee headed by Shri Nitish Kumar about the working thereof, we are considering to set up a Monitoring Committee so as to ask them to function properly and submit their report because the whole work of these corporations is entrusted to them now. We shall, therefore, have to be in direct contact with the State Governments and ask them to conduct the audit of these Corporations because we have not received their audit reports for long despite repeated remainders, but we could not monitor their working during these days. Now, I wish and can say confidently that in future we will constitute a Committee and I will direct my Ministry to keep contact with them, conduct their audit and try to set things right. Likewise we will try to make them viable and find ways and means to make them earn profits.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central assistance was given to 17 states for these Corporations and in 12 states these are running in losses and in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab these are earning profits. It will be in the fitness of things if details regarding the amount of profits they are earning are furnished. My question was that the hon. Minister has stated.

*[English]*

They are going to monitor the performance and participation of Central Government nominees in the meetings of Board of Directors of these Corporations, I want to know about it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can give him full details about the profit or loss of the respective

corporations if he wishes so and this information can be made available only after approaching the state Governments because the state Governments have to do this. We can only help them and provide them with the necessary information on demand.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agro-Industries Corporation was set up with a comprehensive objective in view and the hon. Minister has stated about its condition. Through you, I would like to know about those unemployed agriculture graduates to whom grants-in-aid and loans were provided by Agro Industries Corporation for establishing Agro service centres and a large number of Agriculture graduates were absorbed in Agro service centres but for the last several years their units have not been viable and there was scarcity of work owing to which the bank loans are increasing against them and their delegation has met the hon. Minister and many other Members of Parliament many times in this connection. Thus, the unemployed agricultural graduates who tried to establish Agro service centre and are languishing under the burden of loans that have increased manifold now are not in a position to reimburse the amount of loan. Will the Government help them out by providing assistance to such Agro service centres?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have set up an Agro based consortium. We would like to make value addition to Agro based process so that such agriculture graduates are absorbed in it and this is necessary too.

Some people who become graduates in Agriculture only want to get a job and are not interested in other things. I would like to engage them in increasing the agriculture produce and in increasing the production by farms. This whole work is not being done properly through white collar jobs. I, therefore, agree with Shri Nitish Kumar that whatever can be done in this connection, should be done.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: One of the reasons for the loss incurred by these agro industries corporations is that the State Governments as well as the Central Government are not giving supply orders to the corporations of the products which they manufacture. There is no price preference allowed to the Government owned agro industries corporations. There is no fund for the diversification of the products. There is no timely assistance from the Government of India as well as the State Governments. Coupled with all these things, these agro industries corporations are not able to complete with the private sector industries. Will the Government provide such timely assistance to these corporations and also treat them at par with other Government corporations providing them price preference treatment so as to enable them to wriggle out from this position?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The question remains with the State Government. We have to see and make them viable. The only question is whether they stand on their own legs. When some other corporation are able to do it, why can't they do it? So this is a question of managerial skill. It is a question of dedication and honesty of purpose. I think we shall ask the State Governments to look into this matter. Certain agro industries like Gujarat have taken up

manufacturing also and they are making profits. They should not be only intermediaries; some sort of commission agents, selling tractors or something like that. We want something to be done on the actual field as well as service to the agricultural community. That should be the aim and that is the aim. As far as the price preference is concerned, you should ask all the State Governments to do this job because it is their baby.

### Eradication of Illiteracy

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\*247. DR. KARTIKESWAR  
PATRA:  
SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to eradicate illiteracy from backward areas of the country, State-wise,

(b) if so, the details of the plans and the target fixed for 1993-94; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to the voluntary organisations engaged in illiteracy eradication programme during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-formal education for school drop-outs and Adult Education programmes under National Literacy Mission constitute the three pronged strategy to eradicate illiteracy from the country.

Apart from general plan schemes applicable for the entire country schemes under Non-formal Education and District Primary Education programme have been taken up for backward areas. However, the Total Literacy Campaigns are to cover all the districts of the country. Till now 258 districts have been either fully or partially covered under such campaigns. It is proposed to cover 345 districts by the end of 8th Plan. There is a target of covering 60 districts in 1993-94. Against this target 96 districts have been covered under Total Literacy Campaigns.

The amount of financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations for taking up non-formal education and adult literacy programmes during the last two years is as under:—

Year	Amount (in Rs. Crores)
1991-92	18.72
1992-93	13.69

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA: I want to know which are the States so far having illiteracy of more than 50 per cent. I would like to know whether any special drive to eradicate illiteracy has been taken by the Government in these States. If so, what is the special manner of drive taken by the Government?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The States with more than 50 per cent literacy are Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

DR. KARTIKESHWAR PATRA: I would like to know whether there is any