

(c) The main causes of train accidents that occurred during the period, August to Nov., 1994 are:

(i) Failure of Railway staff	111
(ii) Failure of 'Other than Railway Staff'	16
(iii) Sabotage & incidental	7
(iv) Equipment failure	14
(v) Cause could not be established	4
(vi) Under investigation	24

(d) 69 persons lost their lives and cost of damage to the railway property is estimated to be approximately Rs. 18.15 crores in these accidents.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3,78,500/- has been paid as ex-gratia to the dependant of those who died or were injured in those accidents. However, the compensation to the dependants of the deceased and to the injured will be paid after claims are filed by the claimants and are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal.

(f) Some of the steps taken to prevent train accidents include:

- (i) Rehabilitation of overaged assets like track, bridges, rolling stock etc.
- (ii) Intensive inspections of track, signalling and telecom gears, maintenance depots and workshops of wagons, coaches and locomotives to ensue the quality of out-turn.
- (iii) Ultrasonic testing of rails and axles to identify fractures.
- (iv) Auxiliary Warning system, block proving axle counters, track circuiting and provision of second distant signals on high speed routes are some of the signalling aids which are being progressively introduced.
- (v) Widespread publicity campaign through audio-visual media launched targetting the travelling public and road users to negotiate unmanned and manned level crossings with due care and precaution. The provision of whistle boards, speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings is ensured.
- (vi) Staff in running and operational categories are given comprehensive training on a sustained basis.
- (vii) An out-of-course non-scheduled screening of drivers and station staff has recently been conducted to identify staff with deficient knowledge and skill.
- (viii) Two high-level Safety teams are constituted in Railway Board to conduct on-the-spot inspection of all installations and operating practices to enhance safety consciousness at the grass-root level.
- (ix) The safety measures are reviewed from time to time and new measures adopted on the basis of recommendations of various accident inquiry reports.

[English]

Resource Crunch in IITs

*183. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of resource crunch being faced by IITs;
- (b) the financial allocations made to them during the last three years;
- (c) the broad details of the research output of these IITs; and
- (d) whether the output justifies their claim for higher allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). Plan allocations are made to IITs keeping in view their needs for infrastructural development, removal of obsolescence and modernisation of laboratories and workshops so as to produce competent manpower and high quality research. The Non-Plan competent accounts for maintenance of activities and is worked out carefully every year. The revised pattern of funding introduced from 1993-94 with the system of block grants and creation of a corpus fund has enabled the IITs to be more self reliant by generating additional resources to be used for development purposes.

Financial allocations made during the last three years are given in the attached *Statement*.

(c) and (d). The research output of the IITs can be mainly attributed to publications, national and international awards, patents, books, by the faculty and also a large number of consultancy projects, sponsored research projects, technology transfer and development of manpower in new and emerging areas of engineering, science and technology. The research activities of IITs have been generally commensurate with the allocations made.

STATEMENT

Financial allocation made to IITs from 1991-92 to 1993-94 for maintenance

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
IIT, Delhi	362.00	1755.20	320.00	2300.00	340.00	2608.00
IIT, Bombay	308.00	2258.50	720.00	2583.00	330.00	2930.00
IIT, Kanpur	330.00	1836.00	320.00	2020.00	330.00	2322.00
IIT, Kharagpur	348.00	2066.50	476.00	2157.00	380.00	2442.00
IIT, Madras	320.00	1618.00	320.00	1864.00	330.00	2150.00
IIT, Assam (Guwahati)	32.00	—	—	—	48.00	—

Milk Unions

*184. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Performance of milk unions unsatisfactory' appearing in the 'Statesman' dated November 9, 1994;

(b) if so, whether NDDB has identified the causes of financial weaknesses of such unions and undertaken development programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the performance of milk unions so as to boost the production of milk in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The National Dairy Development Board has identified the causes of financial weaknesses of cooperative milk unions. These include carry over of accumulated losses of the past, heavy establishment costs and other managerial and operational deficiencies within the cooperatives. The National Dairy Development Board is extending support to dairy cooperatives under the Operation Flood Programme.

(d) There is a proposal of a scheme to assist cooperative dairy unions/federations by financing their rehabilitation on an equal sharing basis between the Government of India and the State Governments.

Restructuring of Railways

*185. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tandon Committee has made recommendations regarding the restructuring of the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to shape up the Railways in the light of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee cover the areas of modern financial information systems, developing a business centred approach with focus on the customer, improving the investment planning systems, human resources development and organisational restructuring.

Being conceptual in nature, the Committee has also suggested setting up of task forces to make detailed study and work out the modalities of implementation.

(c) In keeping with the suggestions to set-up Task Forces, Railways have set-up separate Committees' Task Forces to:—

1. identify cost profit centres;
2. develop computer aided long range decision support system for planning and investment process;
3. examine capital restructuring;
4. modernise the financial management system; and
5. unify various Railways Services.

Sugar at Fair Price Shops

*186. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been shortage of sugar during the last four months and full quota of sugar could not be supplied to fair price shops even during the festival season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether sugar supply during October, 1994 was diverted;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether quota of sugar for the months of November and December has been supplied to fair price shops; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient sugar to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (f). The normal monthly levy sugar quota of all States/Union Territories is 3.35 lakh tonnes. In addition, a festival quota of 1 lakh tonne is allotted each year to all States/Union Territories in proportion to their normal monthly quota. The States/Union Territories can draw their festival quota in the month/months of their choice. Allocations of levy sugar to all the States/Union Territories from the months of September to December, 1994 have been made in accordance with the above, through a mix of indigenous and imported sugar. There has been no reduction in the quota allocations of any State/Union Territory in any of these months.

After lifting levy sugar from the sugar factories/Food Corporation of India, it is responsibility of the State Governments and its nominees to ensure its movement to the fair price shops and its distribution thereof.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

*187. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

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

(a) the number of women benefited and the number of organisations to whom loans have been given from Rashtriya Mahila Kosh during 1994 till date in each State;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to increase the activities of the Kosh in the coming years so as to cover more women during the Eighth Plan Period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Details of