

(b) The States in the North Eastern Region have, through the North Eastern Council, moved that each of the States/Union Territories in the region should be provided with at least one rail-head to facilitate exploitation of the natural resources of the region as well as for opening up of the areas from the point of view of economic, administrative and strategy requirements. Accordingly, surveys have been initiated in respect of eight railway sections in the region. These surveys are now in progress.

Statement

HILL AREAS—STATEWISE ALLOCATIONS:

(In Rupee crores)

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
West Bengal	2.50	2.50	3.00
Assam	3.00	3.00	5.00
Uttar Pradesh	12.00	12.00	22.00
Tamil Nadu	1.00	1.00	1.50
Western Ghats Region.. . . .	1.50	1.50	4.50
	20.00	20.00	36.00

Voluntary cut in prices in Delhi

1483. SHRI S. A. MURUGANATHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether shopkeepers in Delhi have voluntarily reduced the prices of their articles by 10 to 50 per cent on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's 20 Point Economic Programme;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that these shopkeepers had increased the prices of the articles just before this declaration and reduced the prices

only to hoodwink the people as well as Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The Delhi shopkeepers have generally reduced the prices of their articles on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's 20-Point Economic Programme though the percentage of reduction in prices varies from trade to trade. For example, the Delhi State Retail Cloth Dealers Federation offered a cut of 5-15 per cent, Central Radio and Electronics Association a cut of 2 per cent, New Delhi Traders Association a discount of 1.2½ per cent and Delhi State Copy Manufacturers Association a cut of 20 per cent commission.

(c) No such case has been reported to the Delhi Administration.

Functioning of Cooperatives

1484. SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report in papers dated the 17th June, 1976 captioned "Functioning of cooperatives assailed";

(b) if so, what sort of reforms are needed in cooperatives to serve the best interests of the rural people;

(c) whether Government contemplate any uniform enactment for the whole country for this purpose; and

(d) the main features of the scheme drawn to increase the membership of the cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.