

Bharathapuzha Station (Southern Railway)

5319. SHRI V.S. VJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharathapuzha Railway Station in the Palaghat division of Southern Railway is run by a private contractor on commission basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when his contract is due to end;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to post regular railway staff to run the station instead of giving it on lease to private contractors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In view of meager traffic and for reasons to economise Railway expenditure, Bharathapuzha station was converted into a contractor-operated halt with effect from 4.4.92, with currency of contract till 3.4.97.

(c) to (e). On 27.6.92 the halt contractor desert the station without notice. Hence this station is currently being manned by railway staff till a new contractor is appointed. There is, however no proposal to deploy permanent staff at this station for economy reasons.

Loss of Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

5320. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
SHRI UPENDRA NATH
VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of

foodgrains, grain-wise, lost in warehouses and depots of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the depot where the loss, in quantity, has been recorded highest for a particular year, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken against the persons found responsible for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The total quantity and value of foodgrains lost in storage (owned and hired) during the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91), Zone-wise and Commodity-wise are indicated in the statements I, II & III attached.

(b) The depot-wise shortages are not maintained at Headquarters/Zonal/Regional level.

(c) The storage shortages occur due to the reason detailed below:—

- (i) Loss in moisture during storage.
- (ii) Rodents and Birds trouble in storage.
- (iii) High Metabolic rate during storage.
- (iv) Long period of storage.
- (v) Use of Iron Hooks by Handling Labourers resulting in difficulty for retrieving spillages.
- (vi) Multiple handling of bags.
- (vii) **Cap Storage under adverse climatic conditions etc. Disciplinary proceedings where called for are initiated against the erring employees and penalty imposed depending upon the findings of the proceedings.**