

(d) whether proposals or modalities on which this programme will be implemented have been discussed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). No such formal proposal has been put forward.

(c) to (e). Do not arise. It may, however, be mentioned that the European Economic Community (EEC) is providing assistance for the project titled "Rehabilitation of Common Lands in the Aravali Hills of Haryana State". The total cost of the project is Rs. 48.15 crores. The life of the project, which was approved in March, 1990, is eight years. The aim of the project is environmental protection and restoration of the green cover in the semi-arid Aravali Hills in Haryana, which are subject to degradation.

Problems of Railway Commuters, Thane

1058. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from Thane Maharashtra regarding various problems of railway commuters there; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) A number of representations have been received from passengers of Thane regarding stoppage of some Mail/Express trains there.

(b) Thane station is served by 32 Mail/Express/Passenger trains at present. Stoppage of more trains at this station is not operationally feasible at present.

[Translation]

Damage to Paddy in Punjab

1059. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 50,000 tonnes of paddy purchased by the Food Corporation of India during 1989-90 in Punjab has been damaged due to improper storage in the godowns

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of loss sustained on that account so far;

(c) whether the said stored rice still by the retains its essential nutritional value; and

(d) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government to supply nutritional quality of rice to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) About 31,200 MTs of paddy has become sub-standard during cover and plinth storage in open.

(b) The paddy became substandard due to long storage in open. The Food Corporation of India had contracted for milling of 2.50 lakh tonnes of paddy, but the miller could not fulfil its full contractual obligations. The extent of loss sustained would be known only after sale/disposal of the substandard quantity of paddy. However losses on all account of non-fulfilment of the contractual obligations are recoverable from the miller.