

- (ii) publication of 3 glossaries of technical terminologies ;
- (iii) maintenance of 11 Urdu Calligraphy Training Centres ;
- (iv) publication of first volume of English-Urdu dictionary ;
- (v) holding of 2 book exhibitions.

[Translation]

Functioning of NAFED

4096. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing sale prices of various agricultural commodities eg. rice, pulses, spices, dry fruits, edible oil etc. through NAFED are higher than that of the Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any case of irregularity in the supply, sale and purchase of these items through NAFED has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the effective functioning of NAFED for the benefit of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) (a) and (b): NAFED is primarily engaged in the task of promoting and developing marketing of agricultural produce to protect the interest of farmers. However, it has also been arranging disposal of various commodities in wholesale and consumer distribution activities on modest scale through its 5 retail outlets in Delhi, to meet the needs of employees at large, unlike Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar which have chains of retail outlets.

The sale rates of most of the items being retailed for NAFED are either at par or lower than those of Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar. However, in a few commodities, its rates are marginally higher on account of quality, cost of procurement and locality considerations etc.

(c) and (d): During 1991 it came to the notice of Government that NAFED was

marketing rice in packets without date of packing and maximum selling price on it. NAFED was, therefore, advised to indicate the same on the packets and it started implementing the practice.

[English]

Catering Employees on Southern Railway

4097. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHAN-GARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of temporary catering department employees working for the last ten years on Southern Railway;

(b) whether there is any proposal to regularise their services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (d) While there are no temporary employees in the departmental catering units on the Southern Railway, however, in pursuance of the Supreme Court Judgement, since 1-4-1987, 291 personnel belonging to the cleaning contracts have been temporarily taken on rolls with benefits largely at par with the regular railway employees. They are to be absorbed, as and when, regular vacancies arise.

[Translation]

Employment on compassionate Ground

4098. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change in rules and regulations providing employment to dependents on compassionate ground has been made effective on North Eastern Railway in relation to such rules being followed by other Zonal Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for taking this step; and

(c) the further action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.