

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

(b) The proposal is in a nascent stage and no timeframe can be set.

[English]

Retirement benefits in Super Bazar

5911. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement benefits are paid to employees in the Super Bazar;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce pension scheme and other benefits for employees;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the employees' Union Association for their various demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Super Bazar has reported that there is no proposal to introduce pension scheme for its employees. Benefits such as gratuity, Contributory Provident Fund, leave encashment, medical coverage, vehicle advance and compassionate appointment or ex-gratia payment are al-

ready available to the employees of this Store.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Memoranda from various Union representatives of the Super Bazar have been received from time to time on various benefits such as increase in the HRA, revision of wages, etc. and their genuine demands have been met.

[Translation]

Funds for Agriculture Development

5912. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance provided for promotion of Agriculture by means of grants, loans to the Adivasis living in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during the last three years; and

(b) the target fixed for the current year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b). Central assistance is provided to states/UTs in respect of specific Centrally Sponsored Scheme to supplement their efforts for accelerated agricultural growth for the benefit of the farmers including Adivasis.

[English]

Konkan Railway Bonds

5913. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any commission or management fee was paid in the sale of Konkan Railways Bonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to whom this commission or management fee was paid?

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

(b) and (c). A sum of Rs. 8.37 crores was paid as commission to the brokers and procurement agents while sum of Rs. 10.35 crores was paid as management fee to various Banks and Financial Institutions.

Educational Facilities for Physically Handicapped

5914. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools and colleges running at present for physically handicapped and blind persons State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposed to establish new schools and colleges for handicapped and blind persons during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CUL-

TURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Train between Mathura and Vrindavan

5915. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge loss is being incurred on operating of three trains between Mathura and Vrindavan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check these losses;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend one of the above trains upto Aligarh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). Train-wise and section-wise figures of expenditure, earnings, and profitability are not maintained. Passenger services are operated for catering to the needs of travelling public, though on an overall basis, Railways are making losses on passenger operations. In order to reduce the loss and curb leakage of revenue, intensive ticket checking drives are conducted to apprehend passengers travelling without tickets.

(d) and (e). Extension of Mathura-Vrindavan Metre-gauge shuttles to/from Aligarh is operationally not feasible as Aligarh is on Broad Gauge.