

Assistance for Flood

5932. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted a request for seeking central assistance for rehabilitation and to make up the losses suffered due to floods in the State during 1993-94, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Booking Counters for Ladies

5933. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Stations and Railway Reservation Centres where arrangements has been made so far for separate booking centres for the ladies, zone-wise;

(b) the number of similar booking counters for ladies which are likely to be opened during the current financial year; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The

number of Railway Stations/Reservation Offices where separate Counters have been provided for ladies are as under:—

| Railways | No. of Counters |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Central | 1 |
| Eastern | 11 |
| Northern | 6 |
| North-Eastern | Nil |
| Northeast Frontier | Nil |
| Southern | 1 |
| South-Central | 2 |
| South-Eastern | 1 |
| Western | Nil |

Besides, at a few Stations where no separate Counter for ladies has been provided, arrangements for separate queue for Ladies, Senior Citizens and Handicapped persons have been made.

(b) and (c). The need for providing separate counters for ladies is reviewed from time to time and arrangements are made to earmark one of the counter as ladies counter as and when required. No extra expenditure is involved in this.

Passenger Amenities

5934. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether by and large all zonal railways have been surrendering even the meagre funds provided for passenger amenities;

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilising funds for meeting the passenger amenities; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the standard of passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c). The surrender of funds in the recent years had been due to unforeseen circumstances like delay in availability of site, failure of contractors, non-availability of material, climatic factors etc. However, it is the continuing endeavour of the Railways that funds allotted are fully utilised and an all out effort was made, in 1993-94, to ensure that there were no surrenders. Latest position available from the Railways indicate that funds utilisation during 1993-94 would be much better than the earlier years. Railways conduct periodical surveys to formulate action plans to remove deficiencies and provide additional amenities wherever warranted by the volume of traffic dealt with at the stations. Instructions have also been given to the Railways to identify major stations for making up deficiencies in passenger amenities in a substantial measure so that the same become clearly visible to users.

[*Translation*]

PROs in Railways

5935. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules regarding filling up of posts of Public Relation Officers in Railways; and

(b) whether these posts are required to be filled up through promotion or through U.P.S.C.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). Rules prescribe that the posts of Public Relations Officers should be filled up by promotion, failing which by direct recruitment. For promotion, Group 'C' staff of Public Relations Organisation fulfilling certain service conditions are eligible. For direct recruitment, persons satisfying certain conditions of educational qualifications, age limits and experience are eligible. For filling up of the posts by direct recruitment, the Union Public Service Commission is required to be consulted.

Link Between Bhiwadi with Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad Line

5936. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to link Bhiwadi with Jaipur-Delhi-Ahmedabad broad-gauge line in order to promote industrial development in Bhiwadi; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). A survey for a new line from Khurja to Rohtak via Palwal-Bhiwadi-Rewari has been taken up. Further action would depend upon the results of the survey and availability of resources.