

are being imported to supplement their easy availability in the market. Import of sugar, edible oils, palmolen and cotton have been placed under Open General Licence (O.G.L.), P.D.S. is being strengthened and streamlined so that its

benefits reach even in the inaccessible areas. Stringent action against hoarders, black marketeers and such anti-social elements is being taken under the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations.

STATEMENT

Percentage variation in the wholesale price index numbers of selected essential commodities during April, 94, May, 94 and June, 94

Commodity	Percentage Variation		
	April, 1994	May, 1994	June, 1994
Rice	Steady	- 0.9	+ 0.9
Wheat	- 4.1	- 3.0	+ 0.3
Gram	- 7.7	+ 1.2	- 0.3
Arhar	- 1.6	- 1.6	+ 0.2
Potatoes	- 2.1	- 1.7	+ 16.9
Onions	- 13.1	- 2.7	- 0.7
Tea	- 6.8	+ 14.0	+ 2.7
Salt	- 0.1	- 0.3	Steady
Sugar	+ 1.8	+ 4.8	+ 0.8
Vanaspati	+ 2.6	+ 5.0	- 0.1
Groundnut oil	+ 6.6	+ 3.1	+ 1.5
Mustard oil	+ 2.1	+ 1.4	+ 1.3
All Commodities	+ 1.8	+ 0.3	+ 0.5

Shortfall in Freight

431. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of losses suffered by the Railways from April 1, 1993 to June 30, 1994 due to shortfall in freight, passenger traffic, damage caused to railway property in different parts of the

country due to agitations, inflation and increase in operational expenses; and

(b) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) There was no shortfall in passenger earnings during the year 1993-94, as compared to Revised Budget Estimates for the year. However, there was a shortfall in goods earnings in 1993-94 as compared to Revised Budget Estimates of the order of Rs. 272.64 crores (provisional). The figures for the year 1993-94 are indicated in the *Statement* enclosed.

Likewise there is no shortfall in passenger earnings in the year 1994-95, April, 94 to June, 94, as compared to Budget Proportion. However, there is a

shortfall in goods earnings during this period as compared to Budget Proportion. Figures are indicated in the *Statement* attached.

During 93-94, there has been a marginal increase in Ordinary Working Expenses. During the period April, 94 to June, 94 there has actually been a saving against the proportionate Budget Grant.

The precise impact of inflation on expenses is difficult to workout. The extent of damage caused to railway property due to agitations will be collected and laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Railways are trying to bridge this gap by more innovative marketing, and successfully launching well directed strategies for effecting allround operating efficiency of the system.

STATEMENT

Provisional figures of Passenger and Goods earnings for the year April, 1993 to March, 1994

(Rs. in crores)

	Revised Estimates	Actuals (Provisional)	Variation
Passenger Earnings	4865.00	4895.21	(+) 30.21
Goods Earnings	12830.00	12557.36	(-) 272.64

Provisional figures of Passenger and Goods earnings for the period April, 1994 to June, 1994

(Rs. in crores)

	Budget Proportion	Actuals (Provisional)	Variation
Passenger Earnings	1296.27	1379.41	(+) 83.14
Goods Earnings	3321.37	3207.82	(-) 113.55