

time to time to partially absorb the hike in Minimum Support Prices and handling costs of Food Corporation of India.

(Rs. per qtl.)

**Effective Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice (Ex-FCI godowns) for PDS**

	Wheat		Rice	
	Common	Fine	Superfine	
28.12.1991	280	377	437	458
11.1.1993	330	437	497	518
1.2.1994	402	537	617	648

(g) Food subsidy paid/released during the past five years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of subsidy paid
1990-91	2142
1991-92	2850
1992-93	2785
1993-94	5537 (Budget—1994-95 allocation Rs. 4000 crores)
1994-95(BE)	3426

**Issue Price of Rice**

192. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue price of rice supplied to different States from the Central Pool was increased from time to time; and

(b) if so, the increases made during the last three financial years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):

a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Central Issue Price of Rice for PDS (Ex-FCI godowns)

Effective From	Common	Fine	Superfine
25.6.1990	289	349	370
28.12.1991	377	437	458
11.1.1993	437	497	518
1.2.1994	537	617	648

[Translation]

**Prices of Sugarcane/Sugar**

193. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the per quintal official price of sugarcane and per kg. price of levy sugar during 1991;

(b) the extent of increase in minimum official price of sugarcane and levy sugar during the last three years and the dates on which these have been made effective;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the existing minimum official price of sugarcane;

(d) if so, the time by which and the extent to which the prices are to be increased;

(e) the price of sugar during June, 1993, May, 1994 and February, 1995;

(f) the reasons for rise in market prices; and

(g) the steps taken to mitigate the hardships of the poor sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane notified by the Central Government for the sugar years 1990-91 and 1991-92 was Rs. 23/- and Rs. 26/- per quintal respectively, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%. The retail issue price of levy sugar was Rs. 5.25 per kg. w.e.f. 1.1.1989, which was revised to Rs. 6.10 per kg. with effect from 24.7.91, for supply of sugar to the consumers through the Public Distribution System.

(b) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 percent of sugar, and the retail issue price of levy sugar for the last three sugar years were as follows:

(i) STATUTORY MINIMUM PRICE OF SUGARCANE

Sugar Year	SMP in Rs. per Quintal
1992-93	31.00 All linked to a basic
1993-94	34.50 recovery of 8.5% with premium
1994-95	39.10 for higher recoveries.

(ii) ISSUE PRICE OF LEVY SUGAR

From	To	Rate in Rs. per kg.
24.7.91	20.1.92	6.10
21.1.92	16.2.93	6.90
17.2.93	31.1.94	8.30
1.2.94	till date	9.05

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present to increase the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane for the current 1994-95 season, which has already been announced at Rs. 39.10 per quintal, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5%.

(e) The range of wholesale open-market prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country during June 1993, May 1994 and February 1995 were as follows:

Month	June '93	May '94	February '95
Delhi—1020-1120	1350-1600	1230-1240	
Bombay—995-1080	1439-1572	1215-1239	
Calcutta—1110-1135	1440-1630	1265-1280	
Madras—1003-1133	1463-1483	1083-1203	

(f) Due to the decline in sugar production during the season 1993-94, the total availability of sugar in the country also considerably declined and the prices showed an increasing trend. The delay in the marketing of sugar imported by various private parties under OGL also contributed to the rise in prices during the middle of 1994.

(g) A portion of the requirement of sugar of the poor sections of the society is met through the Public Distribution System under which levy sugar is supplied throughout the country at a uniform retail issue price fixed by the Government. The open market prices of sugar have been contained by augmenting the availability of sugar through imports under OGL and initiating measures for increase in domestic production.

[English]

#### Doubling of Railway Line

194. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:  
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to complete the doubling of railway line between Bangalore and Jolarpettai during the financial year 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) This doubling is scheduled to be completed in the 9th Plan period.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Cost Control Service

195. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not any cost control scheme which has resulted in cost escalation of projects;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have examined the software package prepared by the Tata Consultancy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Railways have a cost control system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### "Year 1995" as Railway Commuters' Year

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

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate the year 1995 as railway commuters' year; and

(b) if so, the details of the programmes proposed to be organised, particularly in regard to the improvement of passenger amenities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) It has been decided to dedicate the year 1995 to the cause of the rail users. Various steps have been initiated to improve passenger amenities. These include liberalisation of refund rules, expansion of computerisation of reservation facilities, installation of more and more Self Printing Ticketing Machines for easy availability of tickets, introduction of Instant Action Groups for the safety, security and comfort of the passengers, segregation of long distance and short distance passenger traffic by the introduction of MEMU, DMU, Diesel push-pull and rail bus service, running of inter-city trains and Shatabdi Express trains for the convenience of rail users etc.

#### Gauge Conversion

197. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:  
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:  
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:  
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:  
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines converted from metre gauge to broad gauge during the last three years; Zone-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Chhota Udepur (Gujarat) metre gauge is also included in it;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard;

(d) whether the works progress is as per the time-schedule;

(e) the amount likely to be spent on this work; and

(f) the time by which these works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The sections converted into BG during the last three years till date are as under:—

S. No.	Name of Section/line	Zone	Length (Kms.)
<b>1991-92</b>			
1.	Manmad-Aurangabad	SC	114
2.	Salempur-Barhaj Bazar	NE	21
Total			135
<b>1992-93</b>			
1.	Lucknow-Kanpur	NR	59
2.	Delhi-Rewari	NR	83