

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, sir.

(b) At present no section on North-east Frontier Railway qualifies for electrification due to low traffic densities in the zone.

[Translation]

### Sugar Production

1183. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to develop the sugar producing areas of the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the sugar prices in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) (a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture is proposing to implement a Centrally sponsored Scheme on sugarcane during the remaining period of 8th Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, emphasis is proposed to be given on training to the farmers, farm workers including women on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements, etc.

(c) The following measures have been taken to contain sugar prices:

- (i) Adequate quantities of freesale sugar are being released each month.
- (ii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce the various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock holding limits, turnover of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler, etc.
- (iii) All State Government have been requested to ensure regular and timely distribution of levy sugar in order to ensure adequate availability through the public distribution system.
- (iv) Import of sugar has been allowed under Open General Licence. No duty of customs and no additional duty of customs will be levied on this import.
- (v) With a view to ensure that indigenous sugar is not held back by sugar mills, stipulations to ensure regular sale and despatch of monthly freesale quotas have been imposed on them.

[English]

### Catering Services

1184. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the context of privatisation of catering services, the Government has been requested not to consider any demand from caterers for increase the prices of food items;

(b) whether the above requests also explain the hardships of passengers performing long journeys; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Doubling and Electrification of Railway Line

1185. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling and electrification of Railway line from Katwa to Farakka Via Azimaganj; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Railway Line

1186. PROF. SAVITHARI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to connect Alura and Perumbavoor Railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

### Student Exchange Programme

1187. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India will be soon the first country in the third world to be included under the prestigious student exchange programme of colleges consortium for international studies (CCIS, USA);

(b) if so, whether a Study Team from CCIS toured the country and has shortlisted the universities of Delhi, Bangalore and Madras;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful for the country?