

Public Distribution System

1198. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether The Union Government have taken effective steps to deal with the short-comings and monitor the performance of Public Distribution System being operated by the state Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints have been received in functioning of this system and action taken thereon in various States particularly in Goa; and

(d) whether the Government propose to reorient the Public Distribution System to ensure that rural and urban poor are substantially benefited under this system?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d). Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central Government and the state Governments/UT Administrations. While the Central Government makes bulk allocation of PDS commodities to the States/UTs, operational responsibility for implementing the PDS vests with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government holds periodical meetings with States/UTs for reviewing the functioning of the PDS. Suggestions and measures for improving the functioning of the PDS are discussed in these meetings. No specific complaint has been received regarding functioning of the PDS in Goa. Central and State Governments are both pursuing policies and measures to improve the reach of the PDS to the economically disadvantaged regions of the country where a large number of the population below the poverty line reside.

Neo-Literates

1199. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project for continuing education to the new literates through open learning method is being started in twenty districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; indicating the locations thereof, State-wise;

(c) number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons likely to be benefited by this project; and

(d) the total amount likely to be incurred on this project during 1995-96?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) A Project on open basic education has been designed by National Open School which includes continuing education component for neo-literates.

(b) As it is an innovative project, it is contemplated that initially it may be undertaken in 20 selected districts where either District Primary Education programme or

Total Literacy Campaigns have been successful. The State Governments may, however, implement the programme in the entire state.

The National Open School would work as a resource agency. The actual implementation would be done by state, district and sub-district level organisations including NGOs.

(c) and (d) It is premature to assess this. It depends on the scale of implementation by the State Governments.

Train Accident

1200. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a train accident occurred at Khalpara near Raninagar junction in the month of November, 1994;

(b) if so, the main causes of the accident;

(c) the details of loss of life and railway property as a result thereof;

(d) the compensation given to the persons affected, and

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On 18.11.94, while 3141 Up Tista-Torsha Express was on run between Belakoba and Raninagar-Jalpaiguri stations of New Jalpaiguri-Cooch Behar section of Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, its 10 coaches derailed. As a result of this accident, 6 passengers sustained injuries, including one grievous. There was no loss of life in this accident.

Statutory inquiry into the accident has been conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northeast Frontier Circle. The cause of the accident and loss to railway property will be known only after his report is received.

(d) Compensation will be paid on receipt of judgement and decree by the concerned bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal. Ex-gratia, amounting to Rs. 4500/-, has already been paid to the injured passengers.

(e) Based on the findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, appropriate action against the persons found responsible would be taken.

Crop Insurance Scheme

1201. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:
SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Crop Insurance Scheme in place of existing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which new scheme is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the existing scheme is limited to the few crops considering Tehsil as a unit;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review the existing scheme to bring all crops under the scheme by taking villages as a unit;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether reimbursement under the existing scheme has been reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) and (f). A proposal to modify the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is under consideration of the Government. Details are being worked out in consultation with all concerned.

(d) Existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covers wheat, paddy, millets, pulses and oilseeds crops. It operates in a defined area for each crop-as notified by the State Crop Insurance Committee. Defined area may be a district/tehsil/taluka/block or other contiguous area depending upon whether State Government/Union Territory has adequate yield data and has the capability to conduct the required minimum number of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) in each notified area/crop at the end of every season.

(g) and (h). Due to heavy losses incurred in the initial years, the sum insured was reduced from 150% to 100% of crop loan disbursed subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- with effect from Kharif 1988.

Railway Projects

1202. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target achieved with regard to gauge conversion, doubling and electrification of railway lines, zone-wise;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of electrification of Railway line between Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam and Visakhapatnam to Kharagpur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER

SHARIEF): (a) and (b) In 1993-94, the performance with regard to gauge conversion, doubling and electrification exceeded the targets as given below:

Zone/Rly	GAUGE CONVERSION	
	Target/Kms	Achievement/ Kms
Central	42	42
Eastern	Nil	Nil
Northern	427	436
North Eastern	215	220
Northeast Frontier	181	181
Southern	258	263
South Central	332	332
South Eastern	82	82
Western	63	63
Total	1600	1619

DOUBLING

Central	47	63
Eastern	17	26
Northern	16	24
North Eastern	Nil	Nil
Northeast Frontier	8	8
Southern	14	14
South Central	44	55
South Eastern	92	92
Western	12	13
Total	250	295

ELECTRIFICATION

Central	136	136
Eastern	69	69
Northern	34	34
Southern	13	13
South Eastern	214	219
South Central	11	11
Western	23	23
Total	500	505

(c) The electrification works on Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 97.

It is proposed to electrify Kharagpur-Visakhapatnam section in two phases:

Phase-I Kharagpur-Bhubneswar/Khurda Road. The work of electrification of Phase-I is proposed to be taken up during the year 1995-96.

Phase-II Bhubneswar/Khurda Road-Visakhapatnam Electrification of Phase-II Bhubneswar-Khurda Road is not yet programmed.