

Railway Line

283. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to lay a new Railway Line between Udupi-Guruvayoor; and

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken in this regard?

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

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Madhya Pradesh

284. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the World Bank to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Intensive Agricultural Development in the State;

(b) the main benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(c) whether the World Bank had laid down any conditions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) At present there is no proposal to provide World Bank Assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for Intensive Agricultural Development in the State.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Super Bazar

285. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Super Bazar: Kimton mein aage, gunvatta mein peechhe" appeared in the Hindi 'Hindustan', dated 16 July, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon by the Government;

(d) whether there is any proposal to merge Super Bazar with the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(e) if not, the justification for not doing so keeping in

view the nefarious activities of the Super Bazar that have been highlighted all over?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The newspaper report referred to, alleges that prices of various grocery items are higher and the quality inferior in the Super Bazar as compared to Kendriya Bhandar, and in some cases even in comparison to the open market. The report is not entirely correct as Super Bazar has a system of laboratory testing of grocery items sold by them for ensuring quality. Comparison of prices of grocery items in the open market, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar do not always reflect the correct picture, as there could be a range of qualities in each grocery items and it is difficult to specify whether the same quality of the item is being sold at a higher price by Super Bazar. However, Central Government have advised Super Bazar to further streamline their procedures for quality assurance and to evolve a system for monitoring prices of various items in the open market, Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar.

(d) and (e) Kendriya Bhandar is a Consumer Cooperative Store organised by Central Government Employees. Membership in Kendriya Bhandar is restricted to Central Government Employees. Super Bazar is a Consumer Cooperative Store wherein the membership is open to one and all. In view of the difference in membership base Super Bazar cannot be merged with the Kendriya Bhandar.

Vacant Posts in the Ministry

286. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments and subordinate offices along with the date since when these are lying vacant; and

(b) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant and by when these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Clearance to New Industries

287. DR. K.V. R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Industries in which production was delayed due to the delay caused in getting clearance from his Ministry during the last three years; and