

(b) whether the farmers are getting full protection through these measures;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to take any other concrete measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The Government announces minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities each seasons and organises purchase operations through cooperative and public agencies. All the foodgrains and other agricultural commodities conforming to fair average quality specification offered for sale by farmers at minimum support prices and bought by the public procurement agencies. For this purpose a wide network of purchase centres is operated throughout the country. A Control Room is set up in the Ministry of Food and also at FCI's headquarters to monitor procurement operations. The Government also undertakes market intervention operations for horticultural commodities not covered under minimum support price scheme of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

#### Passenger Trains

1182. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect all the District Headquarters of the country by introducing passenger trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, all the District Headquarters in the country having rail heads are served by passenger carrying trains.

(c) Constraint of resources and lack of traffic justification.

#### Supply of Essential Commodities

1183. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether supply of essential commodities through Public Distribution System has collapsed in some of the Tribal areas of Andaman and Nicobar Island; and

(b) if so, the arrangements the Government propose to make to ensure the supply of essential commodities to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and bulk allocation of six key essential commodities distributed under PDS. The operational responsibility of implementing the PDS vests with the State Governments/UTs. The Government has not received any specific report of collapse of PDS in tribal areas from the UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Two ITDP blocks in A&N Islands are already covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) and are eligible for specially subsidised foodgrains. The Central Government has also been extending financial assistance to A&N Islands for construction of godowns and purchase of vans to improve the reach of the PDS commodities to the tribal areas.

#### Biography of Abul Kalam Azad

1184. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any biography of the herald of Indian Independence, Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad has been published by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to publish it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### Stoppages of Express Trains in Kerala

1185. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of stoppages of Express trains provided at any of the Railway Stations in Kerala during 1994-95;

(b) whether representations have been received for more stoppages of Express trains in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?