

<i>Name of Project</i>	<i>Amount spent Dec. '91 (In lacs of Rs.)</i>	<i>Amount required</i>	<i>Progress</i>	<i>Target date fixed</i>
2. Doubling between Kayankulam - Quilon.	1771.00	2446.00	30%	Target will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.
3. Doubling between Quilon-Trivandrum	NIL	7554.00	0%	

Upgrading of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun

205. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agricultural Organisation and United Nations Development Programme have offered assistance to set up an International Institute of Forest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to upgrade Forest Research Institute, Dehradun as an international institute;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, on behalf of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra have called for country statements to host the proposed Centre for international forestry research from several countries including India. India's willingness to host the proposed institute has been conveyed to the ACIAR.

(c) to (e). The Forest Research Institute, DehraDun which is under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education is already well known internationally and efforts to improve its research capabilities within ICFRE will continue.

Allotment of Railway out Agencies

206. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions laid down by the Government for allotment of Railway out agencies to contractors;

(b) whether the Railways are getting adequate number of contractors to run such agencies;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is proposed to revise its terms and conditions to attract adequate number of contractors; and

(e) whether the Government propose to strengthen the existing agencies by enlarging their scope to reservation etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Out Agencies are opened on public demand in the areas not connected by Rail head but with sufficient traffic potential. The contract for out agency is awarded to the most suitable candidate on

merits by calling for competitive tenders through press advertisement

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, where no suitable private contractor is available because of inadequate traffic offering, efforts are made to run the out agency through State Government Undertakings.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Reservation quotes at some Out Agencies have been allotted based on the necessity, the traffic offering and the availability of reserved accommodation.

[*Translation*]

Railway Out Agencies in U.P.

207. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1775 on 6-8-1991 regarding opening of Railway out Agency in Pauri and Chamoli districts of Uttar Pradesh and state the steps being taken to expedite the opening of additional out agencies in hilly areas of U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Efforts made for opening of Railway Out Agencies in Pauri and Chamoli districts of Uttar Pradesh have not been successful due to the non-availability of suitable contractors to undertake the work of these agencies.

Further, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. are also not ready to run these Out Agencies, as they are facing problems even with the existing out agencies. Therefore, it is not feasible to open new out agencies in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh at additional locations.

Increase in Food Subsidy

208. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Food subsidy to increase despite price hike" appearing in 'Indian Express' dated the January 3, 1992;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce subsidy on food due to recent price hike of foodgrains during 1991-92;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase in central issue prices will reduce the quantum of subsidy.

(c) and (d). The amount of food subsidy depends upon the level of procurement, off-take, food stocks and other factors like freight, interest charges etc. and procurement/issue price of foodgrains.

Export of Wheat and Rice

209. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat and rice made available by the Food Corporation of India to various institutions for export during 1991;

(b) whether losses in the FCI has increased as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and impact of the losses on food subsidy to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The total quantity of wheat and rice delivered by Food Corporation of India to various institutions for export during the calendar year 1991 was as under :-