

[English]

Circular Railway in Hyderabad

8431. SHRIDHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of circular railway in Hyderabad;

(b) the total route length and the total estimated cost of the project ; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALMA): (a) to (c). According to the techno-economic feasibility study done by RITES in regard to the Light Rail Transit System in Hyderabad the total route length would be around 23 Kms. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 307 crores. The State Government had been asked to finalise the financing package for funding project. There is a possibility of implementing this the project by a separate company with participation by the State Government , Central Government, Public Sector Undertakings, financial institutions and other agencies on a built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. However, no final decision in regard to the formation of such a company has yet been taken. In view of the complexities involved it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time shedule for completion of the project.

Target Groups for Distribution of Foodgrains

8432. SHRIBAMNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

Identify target-groups for the distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities so that weaker section of the society get priority;

(b) if so, the findings of the government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are aware that quality of various items is poor and supplies are irregular; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The Public Distribution System (PDS) at present is universal in character and does not distinguish the beneficiaries based on income or occupation etc. However, the interests of the weaker and vulnerable sections of the society is sought to be protected. The Central Government initiated measures to revamp the PDS in about 1700 blocks, in consultation with the State Governments/ UT Administrations, which are covered by various area specific programmes to improve the reach of the PDS and make available the PDS items in rural/interior areas, where a significant percentage of the poorer sections of the population reside.

(c) and (d). Foodgrains are issued by the Food Corporation of India to State Governments/UT Administrations or their nominated agencies, according to the prescribed standards laid down by them. The State Governments/UT Administrations or their agents can reject a lot if it does not conform to the laid down specifications. Sugar and edible oils supplied in PDS are in accordance to the specifications prescribed. All allocations are made in advance and hence they should not be irregular.