

(b) The fluctuations in the prices is largely attributed to gap between demand for and supply of spices. In the case of export oriented spices, the domestic prices are greatly influenced by Export performance and the international prices.

(c) In order to check the aberrations in domestic prices of spices, the Government has undertaken development measures to increase the production. exports are being expanded through export promotion measures like training on quality upgradation; strengthening market base in existing markets and identifying new markets; providing financial assistance for export promotion in branded spices in consumer packs in overseas markets; and sponsoring of sales-cum-study missions to markets abroad. In order to check undue fall in prices, the Government has also introduced market intervention scheme under which market intervention operation are undertaken on a specific request from State Government for a particular commodity for a specific quantity during a specific period at a fixed price when the prices fall to uneconomic levels.

[*Translation*]

#### **Production of Lac**

6918. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of lac has been declining particularly in the Chhota Nagpur constantly for the last two decades and its production has declined upto 75 per cent at present as compared to 1950;

(b) whether due to decline in production, most of the markets dealing in purchase and sale of lac in Bihar and other

States are lying closed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The production of Lac in Bihar as well as in other lac growing States has, over the years, declined significantly. the production in the country declined by about 49 per cent from 40045 tonnes in 1950-51 to 20520 tonnes in 1993-94. In Bihar the decline was about 42 per cent during the same period.

(b) Following the closure of many lac manufacturing factories, especially hand operated, in Bihar as well as in other lac growing States together with the fall in its domestic demand due to availability of cheaper substitutes, the volume of market transactions has declined considerably.

(c) Lac being an export oriented product, the domestic prices are largely affected by its export performance. Efforts are being made to increase the production, domestic consumption and export of lac so as to increase the income of the growers. The Government has undertaken development measures like propagation of improved lac cultivation methods through training, demonstration and extension programmes.

[*Translation*]

#### **Railway Network in Karnataka**

6919 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals of expansion and development of railway network in

Karnataka targetted for 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the progress made till date in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). During 93-94, the following works have been completed:

- (i) Gauge conversion of Tumkur-Chickjajur
- (ii) New line from Chitradurg to Rayadurg including Gauge conversion of Bellary-Rayadurg and Chitradurg-Chickjajur.

During 94-95 the following works are targetted for completion: Gauge conversion from:

- i) Chickjajur to Hubli
- ii) Hubli to Hospet
- iii) Hubli to Miraj via Londa
- iv) Hospet to Swamihalli
- v) Birur to Shimoga

The work is making good progress on the above sections and all of them will be completed in 1994-95.

[Translation]

**Coaches on Northern Railway**

6920. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of existing coaches in the trains on the Northern Railway is adequate to meet the requirements of the passengers;

(b) if so, the number and types of coaches demanded by the Northern Railway during 1993-94 and the number and types of Coaches actually provided to; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of coaches immediately?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number and types of B.G. Coaches allotted to Northern Railway during 1993-94 are given below:

1.	A.C. Composite	4
2.	A.C. 2-tier	18
3.	A.C. Chair Cars	13
4.	IInd Sleeper	45
5.	GS/Day coaches	108
6.	Pantry Cars	13