

Improving the Catering Services in Kerala Express

2719. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor catering services in Kerala Express running between Delhi and Trivandrum ;

(b) if so, measures proposed to be taken to improve the Catering Services in these trains ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). Three complaints about the quality of food, misbehaviour of vendors and over-charging have been received and necessary remedial measures taken. Services of two commission bearers responsible for misbehaviour towards the passengers have been terminated. Various steps have been taken to effect improvements in the catering service, and these include preparation of wholesome meals under hygienic conditions at the Base Kitchens equipped with modern gadgets under close supervision of senior catering officials for service in trains.

Cauvery Inter-State Water Dispute

2720. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cauvery Inter-State Water Dispute still stands unresolved ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in settling the dispute ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to settle the dispute at an early date ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Cauvery Basin States have not been able to arrive at a consensus on the use of Cauvery Waters. In the Chief Minister's meeting convened by

the Centre in April, 1983, it was decided that Karnataka and Tamilnadu would resume bilateral discussions to arrive at a mutual understanding and that the officers of the concerned States would also meet to discuss about the availability of water and the savings to be effected in the present use of Cauvery Waters. It was further decided that a meeting of the four Chief Ministers would be convened by the Centre after these bilateral discussions. Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamilnadu met in January, 1984 and decided that as soon as the mutual exchange of data is completed, they would hold further discussions. Karnataka and Tamilnadu are being pursued by the Centre to expedite the matters.

[Translation]

Profit and Loss to Rural Electrification Corporation

2721. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation, New Delhi has been increasing its profit year to year and if so, the details of receipts and expenditure of the Corporation for the last five years ; and

(b) whether Corporation propose to consider reducing the interest rates on the loans provided for assisting the backward States so that the profit of the Corporation also reaches the backward States ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir. The details of receipts and expenditure for the last 5 years are as follows :

| Year | Total income by way of interest etc. (Rs. crores) | Total expenditure/interest on borrowings/tax liability (Rs. crores) |
|---------|---|---|
| 1979-80 | 43.15 | 37.16 |
| 1980-81 | 55.08 | 47.83 |
| 1981-82 | 67.97 | 58.82 |
| 1982-83 | 84.29 | 73.29 |
| 1983-84 | 97.85 | 85.64 |