

- (ii) There is no adequate response from the people for taking ownership of new fair price shops when applications are called for ;
- (iii) The Administration has approached Delhi Municipal Corporation and Delhi Development Corporation to provide accommodation for operating fair price shops at subsidised rates. The responses from these agencies were not positive.
- (iv) Food Corporation of India is taking considerable time to release commodities. There is also delay on the part of Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation to lift the commodities released by the FCI.
- (v) Supply of poor quality of food-grains.
- (vi) Low profit margins allowed to fair price shop owners
- (vii) Loss in transit also affects the already low margin given to fair price shop owners.

In this regard Delhi Administration has also issued a rebuttal on these allegations which has appeared in the Times of India, dated 23.7.88.

(c) Specified Food Articles conforming to the specifications laid down by the Central Govt. are supplied and delivered by the FCI/Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) to the Fair Price Shops. However, since the operation involved is gigantic as about 7 lakh bags of Specified Food Articles (SFAs) are issued and delivered every month by FCI/DSCSC, some possibility of nominal stock not conforming to the specifications cannot be ruled out. Therefore, a system of replacement of such stock within one week has been worked out by FCI/DSCSC if such cases are reported by FPS holders within 72 hours after receipt of such stocks.

(d) The Delhi Administration has taken the following steps to strengthen the PDS in the Capital :

- (i) During 1987-88, 176 FPSs were opened against the target of 100. During the first quarter of 1988-89, 80 new FPSs have been

opened as against the target of 100 for the whole year. As on date 3,382 FPSs are functioning in Delhi.

- (ii) FPSS are being allotted to the DSCSC and Kendriya Bhandar.
- (iii) The profit margin of FPS holders has been increased in case of sugar and imported edible oil.
- (iv) SFAs are delivered at the doorstep of the FPSs by the DSCSC.
- (v) Buffer stock has been created for replacement of stock not conforming to the specifications.
- (vi) Samples of SFAs are being displayed at the FPSs so that food card holders/consumers can verify that they are getting these items as per specifications.
- (vii) 25 voluntary organisations have been given statutory powers to inspect the FPSs and report cases of poor quality stocks, short weight etc., if any.
- (viii) Regular meetings are held with the FPSs Welfare Association towards constant improvement in the functioning of P.D.S. Minimum number of inspections of FPSs by the Area Inspectors/Circle F.S.Os have been specified.
- (ix) Strict actions are being taken against FPS owners contravening the provisions of Delhi Specified Food Articles (Regulation of Distribution) Order, 1961 and terms and conditions of Authorisation issued to them.

Trains between Adra and Howrah

663. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the establishment of Vidyasagar University at Midnapore, the present number of trains between Adra and Howrah do not cater adequately to the needs of the commuters ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce more trains on Adra-Howrah

section in view of the difficulties faced by the commuters ; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Two pairs of through trains between Adra and Howrah and 8 local trains Up direction and 7 in Down between Midnapore and Howrah are available. Besides, a number of connecting services are available at Kharagpur in either direction. Introduction of additional services is presently not feasible due to constraints of line capacity and terminal facility at Howrah.

Halt stations at Bhadutala and Metal Sahar (S.E.R.)

664. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening halt stations at Bhadutala and Metal Sahar in Adra-Kharagpur section of S.E. Railway ;

(b) whether the people of this section are demanding these halt stations since long ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received.

(c) It has been decided to open a Passenger Halt at Metyal Sahar. Opening of Passenger Halt at Bhadutala has not been agreed to as this area is well served by road services and the halt is not financially justified.

Overbridge at Palpara

665. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI :

SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand for an over-bridge at Palpara Railway Station of Eastern Railway in Sealdah-Krishnagar section ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of providing a foot-over bridge at Palpara will be processed for inclusion in the Railway's future works programme, subject to availability of funds and comparative needs of other stations.

Change of Departure of 952 Dn Express from Howrah

666. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the existing departure time of 952 Dn Express from Howrah is causing considerable inconvenience to the Cochin bound passengers as the train reaches Cochin at night ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to change the departure time to 19.00 hrs. to enable the passengers bound for Cochin to avail local trains/buses and reach their destinations the same day, without spending the night at the railway station ;

(c) if so, by when and the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) At present 952 Dn leaves Howrah at 22.30 hrs. and arrives Cochin at 18.40 hrs. which is a convenient time. Its earlier departure from Howrah is, however, not feasible at present due to operational constraints. However, passengers desirous of reaching Cochin early can avail 141 Coromandal Express leaving Howrah at 15.15 hrs. and reaching Madras at 17.50 hrs. and then take connecting 41 Cochin Express reaching Cochin at 09.20 hrs.