

[*Translation*]

Direct Express Train Between Barmer and Ahmedabad Via Palanpur, Mehsana

4969. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy rush of passenger traffic from Barmer district of Rajasthan to Palanpur, Mehsana and Ahmedabad in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is no convenient express train from Barmer to Ahmedabad via Marwar, Palanpur and Mehsana as a result of which the passengers have to face a great difficulty; and

(c) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken to introduce a direct Express Train between Barmer to Ahmedabad via Marwar, Palanpur and Mehsana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Through passengers can avail convenient connection at Jodhpur.

(c) Introduction of a direct train is not found presently feasible.

[*English*]

Loss to Railways due to Accidents

4970. SHRI K.N.PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual loss to railways due to accidents during the last three financial years;

(b) whether there has been a failure on the part of the RDSO and other railway research bodies in preventing these accidents; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to revamp these bodies for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The loss suffered by the railways on account of damage to railway property due to consequential train accidents during the last three years is as under:

1985-86	Rs. 11.45 crores
1986-87	Rs. 16.40 crores
1987-88	Rs. 11.09 crores (approximately)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Closure of FCI Rice Mills

4971. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to close down all rice mills being run by the Food Corporation of India;

(b) whether a large number of workers are going to be affected by this, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for closure and the steps proposed to be taken to provide jobs to the retrenched workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L.BAITHA) : (a) to (c). The Food Corporation of India has decided to close down 13 Modern Rice Mills, having about 264 employees, out of 25 Modern Rice Mills run by the Corporation, as these were found to be consistently uneconomical. The Corporation will absorb the regular staff rendered surplus due to closer of these mills against suitable vacancies in the Corporation.