

(b) if so, the total storage capacity for potatoes in these areas; and

(c) the action taken to increase the cold storage capacity this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) There are no reports about the potato cultivators facing hardships due to lack of proper facilities for storage of potatoes.

(b) As on 1.1.88, there were 788 cold storage with a capacity of 26.03 lakhs tonnes and 210 cold storages with a capacity of 3.66 lakhs tonnes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar respectively. There were 1661 cold storage with a capacity of 26.09 lakhs tonnes in the remaining parts of the country.

(c) Administration of cold storages in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and West Bengal are with the respective States Governments. Administration of cold storages in Bihar and other parts of the country is implemented by Government of India.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been following a liberal licensing policy to encourage construction of cold storages. The State Government is giving incentive for the construction of new cold storages for increasing the cold storage capacity by way of exemption from the ceiling of the maximum charges fixed by the Government which a licence may charge for storing agricultural produce in the cold storage. The exemption is given for a period of 10 years.

Cold storages are mainly constructed in the private sector. However, for promotion and development of cold storages in the cooperative sector, technical and financial assistance is generally provided by the State Governments with supplementary assistance made available by the National Coop-

erative Development Corporation (NCDC). NCDC is sharing 75% of the cost of construction of the cold storage.

#### Committee to Look into the Performance of Delhi Transport Corporation

3032. SHRIKALIPRASAD PANDEY:  
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Transport Corporation is incurring heavy losses and facing various difficulties due to introduction of partial privatisation scheme;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Committee to look into the deteriorating performance of Delhi Transport Corporation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d). There is no privatisation of buses of DTC. The losses incurred by DTC are mainly on account of un-remunerative fare structure, rising cost of labour and other inputs. In order to improve performance steps taken on a continuing basis by DTC include decentralisation of administration, financial and operational powers, improvement in management information system through computers, inventory control, plugging of leakages in revenue, intensive checking and rationalization of routes. DTC have also been selected for awarding Best Productivity Performance Award in Passenger Road Transport—City Service for the year 1987-88 by National Productivity Council. There is no proposal to

set up only Committee to go into question of performance. Remedial measures are yielding positive results.

[English]

**Protection of Poor People from Cold Wave**

3033. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce centrally sponsored scheme for the protection of the poor people from Cold Wave; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Issue of Passports**

3034. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passport offices in the country as on 31 December, 1988;

(b) the number of passports issued by Passport Offices during 1988, office-wise;

(c) the average time taken for the issue of a passport during 1987 and 1988, particularly in Punjab;

(d) the number of passports cancelled or impounded during 1988 with details of each case; and

(e) the increase in staff office-wise on 31 December, 1988 as compared to 31 December, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K. TEWARY): (a) There were 21 passport offices and 2 Passport Liaison Offices in the country as on 31 December, 1988.

(b) <i>Passport Office</i>	<i>No. of Passports issued in 1988</i>
1	2
Ahmedabad	88,928
Bangalore	48,488
Bareilly	53,678
Bhopal	19,929
Bhubaneswar	4,965
Bombay	2,16,526
Calcutta	51,688
Cochin	1,64,767
Chandigarh	67,331
Delhi	92,476
Guwahati	3,628
Hyderabad	88,358
Jaipur	40,997