

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed by Government for maintaining the movement of foodgrains and essential commodities to the North Eastern States for avoiding any shortage and profiteering ; and

(d) whether Government propose to operate Inland Water Vessels on the Karimganj-Calcutta river route via Bangladesh for movement of essential commodities ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) to (d) On 3rd June 1985 there were serious breaches on Lumding-Badarpur Hill section. The same was repaired on 24.6.85 and the normal traffic resumed on 25.6.85. Now, there is no difficulty in moving essential commodities by Rail over this section. During the period of breaches, the concerned Ministries viz. Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies etc. were advised to arrange movement of essential commodities by road. Foodgrains and other essential commodities are also being carried from Calcutta to Karimganj via Bangladesh by Central Inland Water Transport Corporation. In view of the breach on Lumding-Badarpur Hill section, the entire carrying capacity of the CIWTC's vessels operating on Calcutta-Assam and Calcutta-Karimganj routes, was diverted for movement of foodgrains and other essential commodities to Karimganj. The CIWTC are already operating regular river services between Calcutta and Karimganj, so long the route remains operative.

Demand for Berth Reservation in Utkal Express at Bamra Station

1600. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for berth reservation in the Utkal Express at Barma Station ; and

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

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

(b) A quota of 5 berths in second class sleeper is being provided by 77 Up Utkal Express at Bamra from 1.8.1985.

Providing Pantry Cars in Kalinga/Utkal Express Trains

1601. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand from the passengers for providing Pantry Cars in Kalinga / Utkal Express trains ; and

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

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

(b) It is not possible at present to attach Pantry Cars on the said trains due to paucity of Pantry Cars.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at fourteen hours of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATEMENT RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Rao Birendra Singhji.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 29th July, 1985 while answering supplementaries to S. Q. No. 85 regarding "Rise in Sugar prices" I had made certain remarks to which objection was taken by some Members. I had then categorically said : "I want to make it clear that there is nothing like imputation of motive to any hon. Member."

If some hon. Members still feel dissatisfied, I am sorry to have given occasion for it.

[*Translation*]

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to you also.