

(b) if so, whether Government have appointed any committee to suggest some ways regarding running these double-deckers on certain routes; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Except the low archtype bridges near New Delhi Railway Station, Minto Road and Tilak Bridge and some other congested areas, where double decker buses cannot either be operated or may cause traffic hold-ups, the other routes are considered to be safe for their plying. However, as a measure of caution, these buses are being operated only on the routes proposed by Delhi Transport Corporation and agreed to by Director of Transport, Delhi Administration, Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Delhi and Senior Scientist (Traffic) of Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi.

Policy Regarding inter-State Purchase of Coarse Grain

800. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN :

SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has agreed to let individual State Government make direct purchases of coarse grains from other States; and

(b) if so, the policy of Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Central Government has agreed to let individual State Governments to make direct purchases of coarse-grains from other States. This was done to improve the availability of coarse-grains in deficit States. The policy of the Central Government is to allow the sponsored

agents of the State Governments to make purchase and move coarse-grains from other States. State Governments have been advised accordingly.

12 hours.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF SOUTHERN RAILWAY TO CANCEL TRAINS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF COAL

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR (Karimganj): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The serious situation arising out of the reported decision of Southern Railway to cancel the trains due to shortage of coal”.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Mr. Speaker Sir.

There was no cancellation of trains due to shortage of coal recently as appeared in a news item on 20-2-1974 purporting to report the decision of the Southern Railway to this effect. The trains mentioned in the Press reports have been running normally according to schedule.

The Railways have been running, however, with low coal stocks, as stated by me in the House on 15-11-1973. I had mentioned in November that the Railways had been experiencing shrinking coal supplies in the preceding months and as a result the coal stocks of the Railways were low. I had mentioned also that in order to make available to the industries their essential requirements of steam coal, the Railways had to reduce their own coal consumption, and in order to do this in a planned manner the Railways had decided in November 1973 to curtail departmental and shunting services and also temporary suspension of some short-distance and less