

Agricultural Marketing

1276. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated fresh steps for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing network in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the present status of agriculture marketing network in the States particularly in Maharashtra and the extent of support required for its upgradation/expansion as per latest review; and

(c) the details of the action taken on the recommendations of the Experts Panel on the Agriculture Marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing network are continuous process. The policies and various programmes for development of agricultural marketing are formulated by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an attached office of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. However, at present, there are 21 State Agricultural Marketing Boards and 7169 wholesale assembling markets in the country and the agricultural marketing network includes Food Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India and the National Cooperative Development Corporation. Besides, separate Boards like Rubber Board, Coffee Board, Tobacco Board, Tea Board, Spices Boards etc. are already functioning to carry out marketing operations of commodities like rubber, coffee, tea, spices, tobacco, coconut, oil seeds, vegetable oil etc.

In the State of Maharashtra there are 840 wholesale markets and the operational activities of those markets are controlled and regulated by the State Agricultural Marketing Board of Maharashtra.

(c) Most of the recommendations of the High Power Committee on Agricultural Marketing under the Chairmanship of Shri Shankarlal Guru set up by the Government in March, 1992 to strengthen, revamp and expand Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees have already been accepted and conveyed to State Governments/Union Territories Administrations for implementation.

Introduction of Trains

1277. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of new trains introduced alongwith their timings thereof with effect from the last week of April, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : 7 pairs of trains have been introduced on Indian Railways after the last week of April' 1998, namely :-

1. 2619/2620 Kurla-Mangalore Express (Tri-Weekly)
2. 3147/3148 Sealdah-New Coochbehar Uttar Banga Express (Bi-weekly)
3. 245/232 Sholapur-Bijapur Passenger
4. 231/246 Hotgi-Bijapur Passenger
5. 861/862 Mysore-Arsikere Passenger
6. 864/865 Mysore-Arsikere Passenger
7. 863/864 Arsikere-Sakleshwar Passenger.

Schedules of these trains are as under :

1. 2619 Exp.				2620 Exp.	
1515 hrs.	d.	Kurla	a.	1250 hrs.	
0730 hrs.	a.	Mangalore	d.	2100 hrs.	
2. 3147 Exp.					
2115	d.	Sealdah	a.	0645	
1300	a.	New Cooch behar	d.	1515	
3. 246 232 Station				245 231	
—	15.30	d.	Solapur	a.	15.00 —
—	15.50	a.	Hotgi	d.	14.40 —
08.00	15.55	d.		a.	14.35 22.35
11.00	18.50	a.	Bijapur	d.	11.40 19.35
4. 865 863 861 Station				862 864 866	
—	14.50	—	d. Sakleshwar	a.	— 14.30 —
—	17.00	—	a. Arsikere	d.	— 12.20 —
0500	—	1720	d.	a.	1200 — 2200
0900	—	2120	a.	Mysore	0800 — 1800

[Translation]

Complaints against Railway Employees

1278. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaints against the Railway employees with regard to accepting large amount of bribe in connivance with porters and touts for loading Scooter/Motor Cycles in train and while booking the luggage at New Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this direction to punish the employees involved in corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Material by BALCO

1279.DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Head Quarter of BALCO is located in Delhi;

(b) the value of material purchased by the BALCO, KORBA during the last three years; and

(c) the value of purchases made from the subsidiaries of the BALCO for the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The value of material purchased by Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) during the last three years is given below :-

(In Rs. lakhs)

1995-96	21187
1996-97	24806
1997-98	27763

(c) There is no subsidiary of BALCO. However, the year-wise value of purchases made from ancillary units of BALCO during the last three years are :-

(In Rs. lakhs)

1995-96	373
1996-97	440
1997-98	456

[English]

Repair of Govt. Houses

1280.SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount is being spent by CPWD in carrying out major repairs in the Government Quarters in Delhi;

(b) whether the Government houses in Delhi are not more than 30-40 years old;

(c) if so, the reasons for the necessity to undertake major repair works therein;

(d) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the use of substandard material in the construction of Government Quarters by the Vigilance unit of the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) No, Sir. Amount spent in carrying out repairs to Government houses in Delhi is as per approved yardstick and norms to keep the houses in livable condition.

(b) Large number of Government houses in Delhi are more than 30-40 years old .

(c) No comments in view of reply at (a) & (b) above.

(d) Substandards material is not used in construction of Govt. houses and as such question of inquiry does not arise. Inquiry is ordered in case of specific complaints.

(e) No comments in view of reply at (d) above.

[Translation]

Construction of Under/over Bridge

1281.SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway crossing near the Sehor (Western Railway) railway station has to be closed for a long duration due to the heavy rail traffic :

(b) if so, whether there is any possibility to construct over/under bridge at above place: and

(c) if so, the detail thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF