

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two complaints from Civil Supplies Department, Governments of Manipur and Mizoram were received by FCI. However, after verification, it was confirmed that no poor quality foodgrains were issued for PDS.

(d) to (f) There are Quality Control and Vigilance Divisions in FCI which keep a watch on the quality of foodgrains. Besides, a Quality Control Cell is also functioning in the Department of Food & Civil Supplies which makes surprise checks on quality of foodgrains and also monitors the quality at the time of procurement, storage and distribution. In case any shortcoming is noticed in the quality of the foodgrains, remedial measures are taken with FCI or concerned State Government.

[English]

Prepaid Taxi and TSR Scheme

953. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prepaid scheme for Taxis and TSR in New Delhi Railway Station has become a source of harassment for the passengers coming from outside;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken against the erring officials of the Police?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The prepaid scheme for Taxis and TSRs at New Delhi Railway Station is an option available to help the passengers coming from outside in hiring Taxis/TSRs without having to negotiate/bargain with the drivers. The Traffic Unit of Delhi Police keeps a close watch on the Police personnel posted at the prepaid booths. Action is taken against the staff on duty if they are found guilty of causing harassment to the public.

[Translation]

Fluoride Water in Rajasthan

954. SHRI DOWARKA PARSHAD BAIRWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons affected by the fluoride water in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have introduced a scheme to provide fluoride free water to the people;

(c) if so the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent any report to the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government had sent any Central Expert Team to assess the situation there;

(g) if so, whether the Government have received any report from the said team;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Rural Water Supply and provision of safe drinking water to the people is a State subject. As per the Survey conducted by the Government of Rajasthan, over 0.16 lakh habitations in the State may be affected by excess Fluoride in drinking water.

(b) to (f) The State Government has been implementing a number of Schemes to provide safe drinking water. The Schemes are planned and implemented by the State Government for which the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment provides funds. After 1/4/98, the States have been given full powers to deal with water quality issues, including excess Fluoride.

[English]

Shukla Commission

955. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly announced development package for the NE States supersedes the earlier package based on Shukla Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under the new package, it is proposed to open trade and commerce channels between the NE States and the neighbouring countries; and

(d) whether the Government would give top priority to open up trade and commerce channels between Meghalaya and Bangladesh at many points?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No new development package has been announced for N.E. States recently.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(d) Yes Sir, There are already trade links between Meghalaya and Bangladesh.