

[Translation]

Supply of Essential Commodities in
Uttar Pradesh

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*484. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR
HASAN :
SHRI DEEP NARAIAN BAN:Will the Minister of FOOD AND
CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :(a) whether Government are aware
that in most cities and towns of Uttar
Pradesh, fair price shops supply sugar and
kerosene oil only;(b) if so, the reaction of Government
thereto;(c) the items meant for supply through
fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh; and(d) the quantity of each item allotted
to Uttar Pradesh from January 1986 to
February, 1987, month-wise for distribu-
tion through fair price shops ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL
SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD): (a) The Government of Uttar
Pradesh has reported that no such com-
plaint has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh
are required to sell wheat, rice, levy sugar
kerosene, imported edible oils, controlled
cloth and soft coke.

(d) A statement is given below.

Statement

Allotment of wheat, rice, kerosene
imported edible oils, levy sugar,
controlled cloth and soft coke to
Uttar Pradesh during January, 1986
to February, 1987.

WHEAT

Month	Allocation (in '000 tonnes)
1986	
January	45.0
February	45.0
March	45.0
April	45.0
May	45.0
June	45.0
July	45.0
August	45.0
September	45.0
October	45.0
November	45.0
December	45.0
1987	
January	45.0
February	45.0

RICE

Month	(In '000 Tonnes) Allocation
1	2
1986	
January	50.0
February	50.0
March	50.0
April	50.0
May	50.0
June	50.0

1	2	Imported Edible Oil Month	(In M. tonnes) Allocation
July	50.0	1986	
August	50.0	January	700
September	50.0	February	700
October	50.0	March	700
November	50.0	April	700
December	50.0	May	1000
1987		June	1300
January	50.0	July	1300
February	50.0	August	1500
KEROSENE		September	1500
		October	1500
		November	1500
		December	900
		1987	
		January	900
		February	900
		LEVY SUGAR	
		Monthly quota of levy sugar in case of Uttar Pradesh was 50466 tonnes from January, 86 to January, 87. This was increased to 52926 tonnes from February 87, onwards. Besides an additional festival quota at the rate of 1067 tonnes cash for the months of September and October, 86 was allotted to Uttar Pradesh.	
		CONTROLLED CLOTH :	
		Annual entitlement of controlled cloth for the year 1985-86 (April 1985 to March 1986) is 255.130 lakh sq. metres.	
		SOFT COKE :	
		The allocation of soft coke to Uttar Pradesh has been 30,000 tonnes for each of the months from January 1986 to February 1987.	

[Translations]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 9 items, namely, wheat, atta, maida, rice, sugar, edible oil, kerosene and coal are supplied to the people through the fair price shops in Delhi, whereas no other item except sugar and kerosene is available at fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that 7 items are supplied, but the fact is that no item except the two mentioned above are available there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : This is true of everywhere.

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : The hon. Minister has also stated in his reply that no such report has been received from Uttar Pradesh. Let me tell him that I am making the complaint and I do not come from England.

MR. SPEAKER : Your complaint does not seem to have evoked any response from him.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I am thankful to the hon. Member that he has made a complaint. In view of his complaint, we shall depute a special team to Uttar Pradesh to make a study in respect of some shops in consultation with the State Government. I am going to personally speak to the State Government in regard to the distribution of essential commodities in the State. In view of the complaint made by the hon. Member, we shall get it investigated and shall also order a sample survey.

SHRI RAM SWAROOP RAM : The hon. Minister has stated that the central Government supply essential commodities, such as, cloth, coal, kerosene etc. for distribution through fair price shops, but I can say for certain about Bihar that only wheat and sugar are supplied through the Public Distribution Centres in the State. Neither cloth nor coal or kerosene is supplied. In regard to the commitment made by the Government to supply essential commodities to the poor, I would like to

know from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to ensure supply of the rest of the items ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : I had myself gone to Bihar and had discussed with the State Government the difficulties being faced in the public distribution system. So far as shortage of coal, kerosene and other items is concerned, the matter has been taken up with the concerned Ministries. Two teams, one for the metropolitan towns and the other for the villages, have been set up to study the overall public distribution system. These teams include some Members of Parliament also. I had visited Bihar and held on the spot discussion. We shall certainly do whatever is possible at our end in regard to the complaints from Bihar as also from other States which have the similar complaints.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : My supplementary relates to the reply given by the hon. Minister to Shri Azad. This is certain that allotment is made by the Centre and the distribution is done by the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put it in the reverse gear, Mr. Pandey.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Complaints are there almost everywhere. To say that we shall overcome these difficulties by blending the past experience with the new one, will not be enough.

Will the hon. Minister consider evolving a system comprising of the member of Parliament of the respective area and some monitoring agency on his behalf to examine the existing system and shortcomings, if any, noticed are brought to the notice of the hon. Minister as well as the local administration ? Is there any such proposal under consideration of the Government ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : In my view, the efficient functioning of the public distribution system depends on the extent of vigilance the people keep over it. We have told all the State Governments that there should be vigilance over each fair price

shop irrespective of whether it is in the village or elsewhere and that there should be a vigilance committee for this purpose. At some places, they have formed vigilance committees, some at taluka level and some at the district level. We have asked them to associate the M.Ps. with such committee. It is very good to associate them for this purpose. We shall ask the State Governments that M. Ps. must be associated with such committees.

[English]

Fault rate in Telephone Network

*487. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister to COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the average fault rate in Indian telephone network;

(b) how does it compare with the fault rate in other countries like Japan, Australia and Ireland;

(c) if Indian's rate does not compare favourably, the corrective steps taken to bring down the fault rate; and

(d) any time bound programme fixed for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) : A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Average number of faults per 100 station per month in our country for Metro, Major, Minor Telephone Districts and Telecom Circles is 28.4, 26.5, 33.6 36.1 respectively which comes to 31.9 as All India Average.

(b) Fault rate in Australia for Metro and Country areas is 5.9 and 5.6 per 100 telephones per 4 weeks, in Ireland 7.4 per 100 station per month, in Japan it is 0.5

(c) Steps taken to bring down the fault rate are in two parts—one for external plant including subscribers installations and the other for exchange equipment itself.

(i) The majority of telephone faults are due to external plant. Steps being taken are

—cleaning, dressing up and locking of distribution points.

—Replacement of overhead bare-wire subscriber loops by insulated drop wires.

—Rehabilitation of subs fittings and replacement of fault prone telephones.

—tighter control of quality in production of telephone instruments.

—Use of Jelly filled cables in the distribution network to prevent entry of water in telephone cables to avoid faults.

(ii) Steps being taken to improve the telephone equipments are

—progressive replacement of life expired telephone exchanges.

—Introduction of reliable electronic telephone exchanges.

(d) It has been planned to reduce the number of faults per 100 stations per month from 35 in 1986 to 10 by 1990 and 5 by 1995.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I have gone through the statement and it has been indicated by the hon. Minister that the fault rate in other countries is lower as compared to India and that they plan to reduce the number of faults to ten by 1990 and to five by 1995. This is a very dismal position. May I ask the hon. Minister through you if it is not possible to reduce the faults to five by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan and if so what would be the special steps taken to provide a satisfactory and reliable telephone service in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : We