

[*Translation*]

Supply of Quality Items to Consumers

*329. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Jansatta' dated 10th December, 1989 under the caption "Ration ki dukano se sab pareshan" highlighting the reaction of consumers towards functioning of Fair Price Shops in Delhi;

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

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely supply of quality essential items to consumers from ration shops; and

(d) the time by which the results are likely to be achieved?

MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Delhi Administration distributes nearly 1 lakh metric tonnes of rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils, through over 3500 fair price shops, among more than 20 lakh card-holders every month. While there may be short-comings in an operation of this magnitude, the benefits provided by this system, especially to the poorer sections, cannot be overlooked. Continuous efforts to strengthen and streamline the system are made.

Some of the measures adopted by Delhi Administration to secure timely supply of good quality items are door-step delivery of these items to the Fair Price Shops, checking of quality of the items before delivery to

these shops, frequent inspections to check malpractices etc.

Village Health Guides

*330. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of village health guides in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to bring them at par with the Class IV employees and if so, when; and

(c) whether medicine kits are issued to these public health guides and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Based on the information received from the States/Union Territories, the total number of trained Village Health Guides as on 31.9.1989 is reportedly 410062.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Supply of medicines kits was discontinued effective from 1.7. 1986 mainly on account of financial constraints. There is a proposal to revive the supply of kits to Village Health Guides.

[*English*]

Appointments in Senior Positions of Government

3049. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a lot of appointments in several senior positions of Government of India were made in the past in which Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recommendations were