

(d) is not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Central Government issues foodgrains meant for distribution in the areas covered under Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) at specially subsidised Central issue Prices which are lower than the normal Central Issue Price for Public Distribution System by Rs. 50 quintal. Central Government has advised the State Government/UT Administrations that the end retail prices of foodgrains in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas should not exceed the Central issue Prices by more than Rs. 25 per quintal. States/UTs have been advised to ensure availability of 20 kgs. of foodgrains per month per household in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas. Central Government provides financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and purchase of vans in the Revamped Public Distribution System areas. The operational responsibility for distribution of commodities allocated for Public Distribution System is that of the State Government/UT Administrations. It is for them to decide whether distribution should be entrusted to Gram Panchayats.

#### **Availability of Quality Seeds**

379. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether improved quality seed for different crops are adequately available to the farmers in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to encourage the production of better quality seeds and make them available to the farmers adequately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTION ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b): Overall quality seed availability of different crops for 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 71.69 lakh quintals and 80.00 lakh quintals respectively against requirement of 67.79 lakh quintals and 69.47 lakh quintals.

(c): For quality seeds production and to make them available to farmers adequately, there is a well established infrastructure which includes State Seed Organisations, National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India in addition to Private Sector organisations.

The Government of India has also launched National seeds Project to improve infrastructure, production capacities, seed quality control facilities for both public private sectors. Quality Seed production and distribution is also encouraged under various central crop development schemes.

[Translation]

#### **Express Parcel Trains**

380. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI P.C. CHACKO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any weight limit and targets have been fixed to deliver the booked goods to their destination within a fixed time limit by the newly introduced express parcel trains; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the freight/fares charges?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Parcel trains have been newly introduced between Wadi bunder and Shalimar, Bombay and Delhi and Amalsad and New Azadpur. No weight limit has been set. Parcels are loaded as per the carrying capacities of the parcel vans. Freight/Fares are charged as per normal parcel rates applicable for parcel/perishables. Trains from Amalsad to New Azadpur is carrying only one perishable i.e. Cheeku. So far 8 parcel trains have been sent from Wadi bunder to Shalimar, 6 from Bombay to Delhi and 10 from Amalsad to new Azadpur. There is no guaranteed time and no special charges levied.

#### **Rail Coach Factory In Gujarat**

381. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up rail coach factory in Gujarat, particularly in Tribal areas;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coach manufacturing capacity in the country is adequate to meet the requirement of the Indian Railways.

[English]

#### **Female Infanticides**

382. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey on the incidents of female infanticides has been conducted by the Government in some selected States recently;

(b) if so, which were the States selected;

(c) the comparative data amongst these States as per the survey; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such infanticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI):** (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey on female infanticide has been sponsored in nine selected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Reports in respect of the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have been received. The study in rest of the States is in progress.

(d) Various programmes of action and advocacy are being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and girl child. Attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl child so as to bring about changes in societal attitudes towards them. The Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to girl child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the Girl Child focusing survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of interventions for adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS structure.

#### **Konkan Coastal Railway**

**383. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Indian Technical and Economic Services (RITES) New Delhi had carried out survey on Konkan coastal railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey was carried out to mark the alignment between Dasgaon and Ratnagiri and deciding the location of bridges, tunnels, stations etc.

(c) The construction of the line is being carried out in this alignment.

#### **Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project**

**384. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government accorded the final environment as well as forest clearance to Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the total hectare of the forest land likely to be destroyed as a result thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):**

(a) to (c) The environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala was accorded by the

Ministry on 3.6.1985. However, the proposal of the State Government of Kerala for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project was rejected on merits on 31.1.1991. Subsequently, on the request of the State Government to reconsider the proposal, an Experts' Committee was constituted for site inspection of the project area. The State Government was requested to furnish certain details and its comments on the report of the Experts' Committee. These have been received and are under examination.

(d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Kerala, the proposal for Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project involves diversion of 3001.8 hectares of forest land.

#### **Trading in Wheat and Rice**

**386. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:** Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recommended to the States to delicense trading in wheat and to liberalise the stock-holding limits on wheat and rice keeping in view the comfortable stock position of foodgrains this year;

(b) if so, the response received from the States in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had reiterated their recommendations to the States again on October 31, 1994; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the States have accepted these recommendations?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi Meghalaya, Karnataka, Nagaland, Mizoram and Daman & Diu have taken action to delicense trading in wheat. State Governments of Gujarat, Kerala, Sikkim, Lakshdweep and Pondicherry have intimated that wheat trading has not been under licensing in these States. Orissa and Punjab are not in favour of delicensing wheat on account of the existing local conditions.

As regards stock-limits, the State Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Delhi have informed that they have since removed the stock limits. No stock limits existed on wheat and rice in Orissa, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Both in respect of stock limits and wheat licensing other States/Union Territories have been reminded.