

is implementing a scheme of coaching classes to prepare students belonging to educationally backward minorities for various competitive examinations. Currently 21 Universities and 38 Colleges are implementing the scheme. Besides, 2 Regional Resource Centres are providing resource support to the coaching centres, through preparation of teaching learning materials. During the years 1991 and 1992, 9952 candidates from educationally backward minorities have benefited under this scheme

-All the 41 minority concentration districts identified by the Programme of Action, 1986 have been covered by community polytechnics.

Price of Flour Bag

440. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of 10 Kg. wheat flour under Public Distribution System has been increased;

(b) if so, the details of revised price together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to further increase the price of wheat flour bag; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Consequent on the increase of Central Issue Price of Wheat w.e.f. 11.1.93, the price of 10. Kg. atta distributed through PDS in Delhi has been increased from Rs. 38.90 to Rs.43.90 per 10 kg. bag.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Amendment to Consumer Protection Act

441. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring an amendment in the consumer Protection act to make it more effective and to give more rights to the consumers;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be amended and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to bring an amendment in the Consumer Protection Act during the Monsoon Session; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d). Government has introduced the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1993 in Rajya Sabha on 31.3.1993. As the Bill could not be taken up for consideration by the Rajya Sabha due paucity of time Government promulgated the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 on 18.6.1993 carrying out the amendments contained in the Bill. The amendments provided for enlarging the scope of Consumer Protection act, 1986 and strengthening of the

three tier redressal agencies envisaged under the Consumer protection, 1986. It has been decided to take up the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1993 for consideration and passage in the current session of the Parliament.

[English]

Konkan Railway Project

442. SHRI SUDHIRSWANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Roha Dasgaon section of Konkan Railway route has been commissioned;

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress of work on Konkan Railway and position of funds as on 30th June, 1993;

(d) whether the Railway bonds have obtained good response from the public and if not the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(e) whether there is any proposal for release of further bonds;

(f) whether there is any proposal for raising money by public issue in form of equity shares; and

(g): if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Roha-Veer section of the Konkan Railway was inspected by Commissioner of railway Safety on 12-4-93 and 13-4-93 and cleared for opening to passenger traffic. As the above section lies in an area of very heavy rainfall, a conscious decision was taken to open the above section to passenger traffic only after the end of the monsoons.

(c) (i) *Progress*: The Mangalore-Udupi section, a length of 68 kms has been opened to passenger traffic since 21-3-93. The Roha-Veer section is ready for opening after the end to the monsoons. The overall progress of the entire project is about 50%.

(ii) Position of funds:

<i>Funds Mobilised;</i>	<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>
Amount subscribed as Share Capital	371
Amount realised by bonds issue (face value)	186
Bridging loans	288 845
Expenditure till 30-6-93	822

(d) and (e). The response of tax free bonds has not been encouraging so far. The total amount required to be mobilised through tax free bonds during 1993-94 is Rs. 700 crores. Due to lack of response from banking and financial institutions, the Corporation is proposing to come out with a public issue of tax free bonds in September '93 for which the required clearances are being obtained. In addition, the authorised share capital of the Corporation has also been enhanced from Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 crores and part of the funds for 1993-94 will be met from the equity portion to be received from the participating governments.

(f) There is no proposal for issue of Equity to the public

(g) Does not arise.

Grants to Central University

443. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: