

**Wagon Procurement Programme**

902. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the steps taken by the Railways for planning and finalising wagon procurement programme for the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Advance preparation has already started for formulating the programme for procurement of wagons during 1994-95. This is expected to be finalised after approval of the Railway Budget by the Parliament.

[*Translation*]

**Public Distribution System**

903. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:  
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA  
KAUR (DEEPA)  
SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:

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

(a) whether the number of consumers under the Public Distribution System has declined sharply due to increase in the prices of food items being sold at fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to review the PDS for the benefit of the poor people?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With a view to evolve a National Policy on Public Distribution System which should focus on the allocation of larger and more meaningful quantities to the really, needy and deserving sections of the society, the Central Government had set up a Committee of Ministers comprising Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of Tamil Nadu, Haryana and West Bengal. The report of this Committee was considered at the 16th Meeting of the Advisory Council on PDS in September, 1993. The Advisory Council on PDS decided to refer the issue to the National Development Council for further discussion with the State Governments. The Central Government has not taken any final decision in the matter.

[*English*]

**Quality of Feed**

904. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to maintain the quality of feed supplied to brackish water prawn culture units sold by the manufacturers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNAKUMAR): (a) and (b): Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce has prescribed prawn feed quality standard as indicated below:-

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1.	Moisture	Less than 10%
2.	Protein	More than 30%
3.	Fat	Between 4% - 10%
4.	Fibre	Less than 6%
5.	Ash	Less than 12%
6.	Water stability	Minimum 6 hrs.

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The prawn feed manufacturing units which do not conform to the standards prescribed by MPEDA as above, are not considered for registration. The Ministry of Agriculture also gives technical approval for proposal for establishment of prawn feed manufacturing units only when it is satisfied that the feed to be manufactured will have efficient feed to flesh conversion ratio.

#### **India-Israel Agreement**

906. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Israel has signed any agreement during December, 1993;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the areas identified for the joint ventures?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM):** (a) Yes, Sir. India and Israel have signed an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture on 24th December, 1993.

(b) The agreement provides for cooperation in agricultural science and technology including research, education, extension and training, development projects and joint ventures between companies or institutions of the two countries in the areas of water and soil management, arid and semi-arid crop production, plant and animal sciences, veterinary science, farm mechanisation and technology, agro-forestry, etc. Cooperation under the agreement is to be carried out through biennial work plans prepared by mutual agreement.

(c) Specific areas/proposals for joint ventures are yet to be finalised.

#### **Railway Projects in West Bengal**

907. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing Railway projects in West Bengal are running behind schedule in comparison to other Railway projects in various States;

(b) whether the funds allotted for those projects were withdrawn;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and