

(b) For bifurcation of the train at Bathinda and running one portion to Fazilka.

(c) Examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints.

Hybrid Seeds

2394. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of quality seeds, particularly of hybrid cotton seeds and paddy seeds, have abnormally risen in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to develop the hybrid seeds and make them available to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). The prices of quality seeds only in respect of hybrid cotton seed have gone up considerably whereas no such increase in prices of paddy seeds have taken place in Andhra Pradesh during the last one year. The increase in price of hybrid cotton seeds is only due to the following reasons:

- (i) greater demand in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring regions due to better yield of cotton crop last year;
- (ii) diversion of some area from tobacco and Gingelly to cotton crop.

(c) Special Research and Development Programme has been launched since December, 1989, to provide thrust to development and production of hybrid seeds. Simultaneously area under hybrid seeds is also being increased and these will ensure better availability of hybrid seeds. Simultaneously area under hybrid seeds is also being increased and these will ensure better availability of hybrid seeds to farmers at reasonable prices.

[*Translation*]

Railway Quarters

2395. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of Railway quarters are lying vacant in different Railway zones since 1987-88;

(b) if so, the details thereof; Zone-wise;

(c) the expenditure being incurred on House rent allowance and rent etc. every year on account of vacant quarters;

(d) the details of instruction issued by the Government to the Area Housing committees in this regard and to ensure allotment of these quarters to the deserving Railway employees; and

(e) the action taken against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.