

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

clearances have been obtained. Necessary action for obtaining clearances has already been initiated. Necessary funds for taking up the work will be arranged once the requisite clearances are obtained. The work will then be progressed and completed in the coming years, as per the availability of resources.

Cleaning of River Jhelum

†*86. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jhelum, an ancient river of Kashmir is turning into a filthy drain;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain schemes had been formulated to clean this river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Surveys and investigations carried out by the Jammu & Kashmir Government revealed that four towns, namely Anantnag, Srinagar, Sopore and Baramulla were polluting river Jhelum.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.42 crores has been forwarded by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for taking up river pollution abatement works in these four towns under the National River Conservation Plan.

(d) The proposal was examined in the Ministry and certain information and clarifications were sought from the State Government, which are still awaited.

Damage to Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

*87. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice, wheat and other food-grains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the quantum of these items damaged in the godowns in those years; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the damage to food-grains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) State-wise procurement of foodgrains made by FCI during the past three years, is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 188, Annexure No.9].

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.

3. The details of foodgrains damaged during the last three years, are as under:—

(In '000' tonnes)

| Year | Quantity of damaged foodgrains (Provisional) |
|---------|---|
| 1996-97 | 64.78 |
| 1997-98 | 75.69 |
| 1998-99 | 147.57 |

(c) The stocks of foodgrains procured on behalf of Government are done so by the FCI, and managed by them for proper storage and preservation as per the guidelines laid down in the Quality Control Manual. These include:—

(i) Periodic maintenance of the godowns to avoid damage through leakage, flooding etc.,

(ii) Use of monofilament nets, cover tops, nylon ropes etc. to protect the LDPE covers used in the CAP storage to cover each stack.

(iii) Periodic turnover of stocks, timely segregation, salvaging/reconditioning of affected stocks and retrieving good stocks thus avoiding further damage/deterioration of the foodgrains.

Metro Railway Accidents in Calcutta

98. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of accidents have been reported in Metro railway in Calcutta recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Number of consequential and non-consequential train accidents on Metro Railway during last two years is given below:—

| Year | Consequential accidents | No. of non-consequential accidents | Total |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| 1998-99 | Nil | 12 | 12 |
| 1999-2000 (till Nov. '99) | Nil | 2 | 2 |

* Transliteration of the Speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debate.