

(c) whether passenger amenities are receiving adequate attention of Government; and

(d) if so, the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meetings were recently held with General Managers and Divisional Railway Managers of Zonal Railways and guidelines were given to them on various matters including railway passenger amenities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The net allocation of funds during the last 3 years under Passenger Amenity Head has been as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1997-98	89.27
1998-99	90.65
1999-2000 (Budget Estimate)	130.00

Decline in Prices of Sugar

*197. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been significant decline in the prices of sugar from September, 1999 onwards;

(b) if so, the extent of decline in the prices of sugar and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this is attributed to the import of large quantity of sugar; and

(d) how far the decline in prices has its impact on the prices in the retail market?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) There has been no decline in prices of freesale sugar since September, 1999. The wholesale

prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country viz Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai since Septemebr, 99 are indicated below:

(Rs./Qtl.)

Month	Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Chennai
September, 99	1550-1580	1385-1440*	1550-1620	1333-1348
October, 99	1550-1580	1390-1550*	1550-1590	1326-1413
November, 99	1560-1570	1385-1490*	1550-1650	1363-1383

(Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture)

*The wholesale prices in Mumbai have been taken from Economic Times

(d) The retail prices of freesale sugar in the four principal markets of the country viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta & Chennai since September, 99 are indicated below:

Month	Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Chennai
September, 99	16.00-16.50	N.A.	16.50-17.00	14.00
October, 99	16.00-16.50	N.A.	17.00-17.50	14.00-14.50
November, 99	16.00-16.50	N.A.	17.00-17.50	14.25-14.50

(Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture)

Rising Pollution in Mumbai

*198 SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai is also following Delhi as far as pollution is concerned;

(b) whether the number of bronchitis and asthma patients is increasing day by day in Mumbai; and