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“पूजा एक्सप्रेस” को अजमेर तक बढ़ाना

*154. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: क्या रेल मंत्रालय ने पुष्कर और अजमेर की यात्रा पर आने वाले तीर्थ यात्रियों तथा पर्यटकों की बढ़ती हुई संख्या को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए “पूजा एक्सप्रेस” को जयपुर के बजाय अजमेर तक बढ़ाने की जरूरत महसूस की है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री नीतीश कुमार): जी नहीं। इस संदर्भ में यह स्पष्ट किया जाता है कि भारतीय रेल द्वारा “पूजा एक्सप्रेस” नाम से सरकारी तौर पर कोई गाड़ी नहीं चलाई जा रही है। बहरहाल, गाड़ी संख्या 2403/2404 दिल्ली-जम्मूतवी एक्सप्रेस और गाड़ी संख्या 2413/2414 जयपुर-दिल्ली एक्सप्रेस को जनप्रिय बोली में “पूजा एक्सप्रेस” कहा जाता है। वर्तमान में शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस और राजधानी एक्सप्रेस सहित बड़ी लाइन की 6 जोड़ी गाड़ियां और मीटर लाइन की 2 जोड़ी गाड़ियां दिल्ली और अजमेर के बीच यात्रियों की आवश्यकताओं को पर्याप्त रूप से पूरा कर रही हैं। उपरोक्त को ध्यान में रखते हुए 2413/2414 एक्सप्रेस को फिलहाल अजमेर तक बढ़ाने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।

Import of Urea and other Fertilizers

*155. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI GOPALSINH G.
SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Memoranda of Understanding signed as on date between

his Ministry and foreign companies for import of Urea and other fertilizers;

(b) the details thereof alongwith terms of agreements of each such company;

(c) the worth of orders placed by Government for the purchase of Urea from the international market; and

(d) the names of Indian agencies who have been selected for the import deals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Urea is the only fertilizer whose imports are made on Government account. This is done through designated canalising agencies. No Memoranda of Understanding has been signed by any of these agencies for import of urea for Kharif 98.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) MMTC, STC and IPL are the three canalising agencies which are authorised for making import of urea on Government account. None of these agencies have as yet placed any orders for purchase of urea for Kharif 98.

Education of Children from Low Income Families

*156. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children hailing from low income families do not complete school education;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been done on this issue;

(c) what are the general findings of the survey; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to ensure that such children complete their schooling?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) According to 42nd Round of National

Sample Survey, a large number of children drop out from school because of economic reasons.

The other reasons given by the above mentioned survey for children discontinuing education include lack of interest in education and further studies, domestic chores, gender discrimination and failure.

The Central and State Governments have taken several measures to facilitate completion of schooling by children. These relate to increased access to schools, improvement in school infrastructure, incentives for SC/ST students and girls such as free textbooks, uniforms and attendance scholarships, implementation of Mid-Day Meals Programme and residential schools and hostels for SC/ST boys and girls.

District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), which is being implemented in 149 districts, have designed contextually relevant strategies to ensure better participation and retention of children at primary level.

Revival of Sick Public Sector Units

*157. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item captioned "Revival of sick public sector units top priority" which appeared in the Statesman, Calcutta dated the 20th April, 1998, regarding revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and Fertilizers Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether Government are aware that production of Durgapur remains suspended because of failure of primary reformer;

(c) if so, whether necessary replacements/repair work have been taken up

on top priority for resumption of production; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The production operations of the Durgapur unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) were suspended by the Management on 24.06.1997 after a fire in the primary reformer top.

The resource constraints of HFC have not permitted it to undertake the substantial capital investment required for carrying out major repairs/renovation for restarting production in the Durgapur unit.

Setting up of Health Sub-Centres in Villages

*158. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the State Governments to set up atleast 15 per cent of Health sub-centres in Scheduled Caste basties or villages having 20 per cent or more SC population;

(b) if so, how far the State Government of Gujarat have acted on the said advice and opened Health Sub-centres in such basties or villages during 1997-98 with details thereof; and

(c) what other health facilities are being provided to SC people of rural areas in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.