

Pilferage of Foodgrains from Railway Wagons

2169. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAN-SAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on many occasions the railway wagons carrying foodgrains of Food Corporation of India are found with the seals tampered and the goods pilfered on arrival at the destination;

(b) how many such cases were reported during the year 1985 and what was the total quantity of food grains thus lost; and

(c) how many of these cases of pilferage or theft were traced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) On some occasions wagons carrying foodgrains of Food Corporation of India are received at the destination points with seals tampered/disturbed.

(a) and (c) In such cases of shortages where seals are found tampered/disturbed, claims for compensation are lodged by the Food Corporation of India against the Railways. The total claim of Rs. 3.94 crores were lodged with the Railways during the year 1985 for pilferage, damage, etc.

Promise of more Central Investment In West Bengal

2170. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had promised more Central investment in West Bengal during his recent visit to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister while speaking at the

Congress-I Workers' Convention at Calcutta on 1-7-1986, had urged them to take the responsibility of economic revival of West Bengal. Extending full assistance of the Central Government he had stated that Centre would not fail in any manner whatsoever in helping West Bengal revive its declining economy. In fact, the Centre has already brought out some changes in its policies which are aimed at revival of the Jute and Tea Industries.

Committee for Allotment of Accommodation in the Southern Command Area

2171. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee for allotment of types 'A' and 'B' accommodation to the Army officers in the Southern Command area has been constituted by the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, when;

(c) what is the composition and the names of the head and the members of the Committee;

(d) what is the scope of the role and duties of the Committee in the matter of allotment of Types 'A' and 'B' accommodation; and

(e) whether any weightage is given to the recommendations/suggestions of the Committee in the allotment of accommodation; if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Destruction of Forests in Kerala

2172. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forests in Kerala are being cleared gradually by the organised groups with political patronage,

thus resulting in shortfall in rain in the catchment areas of hydel projects;

(b) whether the Kerala Government has sent a proposal for allotment of forest land to encroachers and a Minister of that State recently discussed the matter with the Union Minister of Environment and Forests for obtaining relaxation from the provisions of the Forest Act; and

(c) what are the details of the proposal of the State Government and the action being taken by the Central Government to stop further deforestation in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to report received from the State Government, 28588.159 ha. of forest lands are under unauthorised occupation of farmers since before 1977.

(b) Yes, Sir, but the Minister from Kerala met the Minister of State (Environment and Forests) to seek expeditious decision on the proposal, and not relaxation of any provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) In July, 1986, the State Government of Kerala have sent a proposal to the Government of India for their approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 28588.159 ha. of forest lands under encroachment by about 50,000 families. In this matter, as in regard to all such matters the Central Government will take action which will check further deforestation.

Provision of Government Accommodation to Naval Officers in Bombay

2173. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of naval Commissioned Officers stationed in Bombay;

(b) what is the number of such officers who have been provided with Government accommodation; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide accommodation to those naval officers who have not been provided with Government accommodation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) 1722 Naval Officers are stationed in Bombay as on 08th August, 1986 and all of them are provided with either Government married or single accommodation. Married accommodation is provided subject to availability. The Officers who are unable to get married accommodation are either offered hired accommodation or permitted to hire accommodation themselves on reimbursement basis, or offered/allotted single Government accommodation. Construction of new married accommodation is being sanctioned progressively every year subject to availability of funds.

Fixation of Seniority of Assistants of the Ministry of Defence

2174. SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has received any instructions from the Ministry of Personnel and Training, which is the final authority in regard to service matters, to the effect that inter-se seniority of the Assistants renominated from the Department of Petroleum may be fixed with effect from the dates they had initially joined that Department;

(b) if so, whether these instructions have been/are being implemented;

(c) if not, what are reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Ministry of Personnel and Training was again consulted on this issue; and

(e) if so, what are the details of their reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (e) For the implementation of the instructions, certain clarifications have been sought from Department of Personnel and Training. On receipt of the same, further action will be taken in the matter.