

possible to make an accurate assessment of the goods pilfered at any particular station. The total value of goods found pilfered at Delhi, New Delhi, Mughal Sarai and Howrah Railway stations during the one year preceding the Emergency and during the first year of Emergency was Rs. 11,20, 220 and Rs. 1,81,891.23 respectively.

(b) The following preventive steps are taken to check pilferage of goods:

(i) an intensive drive was launched against the habitual criminals and receivers of stolen railway property with the cooperation of the State Governments and in addition to action against the specific offences action under preventive laws was also taken.

(ii) intensive compliance of commercial procedures and documentation of freight was ensured through constant and close supervision.

(iii) intensification of arrangements for repairs of wagons arriving at intermediate stations in panel cut conditions.

(iv) tightening of security arrangements.

Manufacture of low-priced drugs

383. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken to manufacture low priced drugs as suggested by the Hathi Committee; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) There is no specific recommendation by the Hathi

Committee in regard to the manufacture of low priced drugs. But in order to make the essential drugs identified by it available in large quantities and at reasonable prices throughout the country, the Committee has made certain recommendations. All efforts are made to increase the production of bulk drugs involved therein by grant of industrial licences/approvals liberally in keeping with the policy of Government from time to time. Prices are being controlled by Government under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970.

Kerosene depots

384. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies are jointly planning to set up a country-wide network of taluk kerosene depots; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b) A field survey for the development of Taluka Kerosene Depots (TKD) was conducted by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., in coordination with other oil industry members. A pilot project has also been started in Ratnagiri district. The concept of Taluka Kerosene Depots envisages setting up of Kerosene storage points as far as practicable, in each Tehsil/Taluka, so that kerosene distribution upto Taluka level will take place under oil companies directions as per State-wise allocations made by the Ministry of Petroleum. The subsequent distribution of kerosene beyond Taluka Kerosene Depots will be done through Dealers/Retailers and will be the responsibility of the respective State Governments, as is the position at present. The Damle Committee on

Distribution System of Petroleum Products has also commented the Scheme and recommended its acceptance in principle by the Government. Recommendations of the Committee are however, at present under consideration.

Conversion of Quilon-Trivandrum Railway line

385. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 272 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1976 and state the progress so far made in regard to the conversion of Quilon-Trivandrum metre gauge line into broad gauge line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): Overall progress made on the Ernakulam-Trivandrum conversion project is 92 per cent. The Quilon-Trivandrum section is expected to be opened for traffic shortly.

Electrification of Olavakkot—Trivandrum Central Section

386. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 391 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th May, 1976 and state:

(a) whether the cost-cum-feasibility study for electrification of Olavakkot—Trivandrum Central section has been undertaken; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in the construction of the project and by when it is expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Survey work is in progress and is expected to be completed by early next year.

Waiting list of 1st class passengers of G. T. Express and Dakshin Express

387. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN:
SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the daily average number of First Class passengers on the waiting list of G.T. Express and Dakshin Express at Delhi, Bhopal, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Vijaywada, Madras and Bangalore stations for the last six months; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to ease this situation at these stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. The Supreme Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1976

II. The High Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1976

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Department of Justice) under sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958:

I. Notification G.S.R. No. 343 (E), dated the 18th May, 1976, publishing the Supreme Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1976.