

(b) Ever since the increase made in December 1970 in respect of full meals, vegetarian and non-vegetarian and Western style breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, no increase in the prices has been made so far. There has been increase in respect of other edibles ranging from 4 to 50 per cent.

(c) A few complaints about enhancement of rates have been received.

CONTRACT LABOUR IN RAILWAYS

442. SHRI N.H. KUMBHARE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the type of work in the railways which is done through contract labour;

(b) what is the number of such contract labourers employed in the various Zonal Railways throughout the country at present and what is the number of the contracts in this regard;

(c) what is the nature of the contracts and terms thereof; and

(d) whether the railways exercise any control over the contractors to ensure reasonable wages and better conditions of employment for the contract labour ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Contractors are generally engaged by Railways for the execution of the undermentioned types of work :

(i) goods/parcels handling;

(ii) coal and ash handling/cinder picking;

(iii) engineering works involving large scale construction;

(iv) removal of cinder residue, rubbish etc. from workshops;

(v) conservancy items of work; and

(vi) such other ad-hoc types of work which may be found necessary.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) The contracts entered into by Railways with contractors for execution of railway works are for a specified duration such as on yearly basis, three yearly basis as the case may be, or in accordance with the size and magnitude of works involved. The general conditions of contract provide for contractors to pay fair wages to their labour and for compliance with all labour laws connected with welfare of labourers and which include the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 etc. With the enforcement of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 with effect from 10.2.1971 the Railway Administrations have been advised to take steps to comply with the various provisions of this Act and the Rules framed thereunder by the Central Government and which include payment of reasonable wages to labourers by contractors.

OIL EXPLORATION BY ONGC IN TAMIL NADU

443. SHRI V.V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which the drilling operations are undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for exploring the presence of oil/gas in any area; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to intensify the drilling operations in Tamil Nadu to locate oil/gas deposits in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE) : (a) Drilling operations are undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Commission on the basis of the results obtained by geological and geophysical surveys.

(b) No, Sir. However, the exploratory drilling operations using one deep drilling rig, will be continued.

VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED IN MAHARASHTRA

444. SHRI G.R. PAṬIL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of villages, District wise electrified so far in Maharashtra State;

(b) the number of villages, district-wise, proposed to be electrified during the year 1972-73; and

(c) whether it is a fact that villages in backward areas in Maharashtra have been neglected so far if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL) : (a) A statement showing number of villages electrified District-wise in Maharashtra State with percentage of villages electrified as on 31st March, 1972 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) During the Fourth Plan, the emphasis in rural electrification schemes continues on the electrification of pumpsets. Electrification of villages is a subsidiary part of this programme. It is proposed to electrify 55,000 pumpsets and 2,000 villages in Maharashtra State during 1972-73. District-wise break-up of this programme has not been finalised so far.

The Rural Electrification Corporation which has been set up in the Central Sector since July, 1969, provides additional finances to State Electricity Boards for implementation of the rural electrification schemes. So far the Corporation has sanctioned 16 rural electrification schemes of Maharashtra involving loan assistance of Rs. 1023.158 lakhs for the electrification of 1550 villages, 22451 pumpsets and power supply to 2581 small and agroindustries. Of these 4 schemes relate to backward areas which have been sanctioned on concessional terms.

STATEMENT

Name of District	Total Number of villages	Number electrified as on 31-3-72	Percentage electrified
Greater Bombay
Pune	1,599	660	41.2
Kolaba	1,776	883	49.6
Atnagiri	1,616	466	30.7

Name of District	Total Number of villages	Number electrified as on 31-3-72	Percentage electrified
Nasik	1,552	472	28.6
Dhulia	1,360	468	34.4
Jalgaon	1,435	853	59.5
Ahmednagar	1,318	626	47.5
Poona	1,498	592	39.6
Satara	1,160	530	45.7
Sangli	526	283	53.7
Sholapur	946	397	42.0
Kolhapur	1,086	772	71.1
Aurangabad	1,879	647	34.4
Parbhani	1,517	434	29.6
Bhir	1,031	351	34.1
Nanded	1,325	505	38.1
Osmanabad	1,388	462	33.3
Buldhana	1,225	408	33.4
Akola	1,508	511	33.8
Amravati	1,609	740	46.0
Yeotmal	1,629	573	35.2
Wardha	972	422	39.1
Nagpur	1,653	656	39.7
Bhandara	1,486	595	40.0
Chanda	2,755	355	12.9
TOTAL	36,851	13,661	38.2

LATE RUNNING OF MAHALAXMI EXPRESS TRAIN

445 SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the number of times when Mahalaxmi Express had been running late between Kolhapur and Bombay during the last four months ;

(b) the reasons for late running of this train and the steps taken by Government in this regard ,

(c) whether any action has been taken against persons responsible for the late running of this train , and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) 304 Up Kolhapur-Bombay Mahalaxmi Express ran late on 17 occasions during January to April 1972.