

- (b) if so, the estimated amount to be cut down during the current year;
- (c) whether Government has identified those Railway Departments where Railways have to bear economic losses almost every year; and
- (d) if so, the names of such Departments and the amount of average economic loss in each Department, per annum?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the trend of shortfall in generation of targeted internal resources, the plan outlay for the current year has been reassessed downward from ₹ 60,100 cr. to ₹ 55,881 cr.

(c) and (d) Railways are run as a single integrated organization, its accounts are not maintained department-wise and profitability is not calculated on departmental lines. On overall basis, the earnings have always exceeded expenditure. The position of earnings and working expenses (including pension) of Railways in the last three years is as under:-

(₹ in cr.)

Year	Earnings	Working Expenses (including Pension)
2010-11	94,526	83,959
2011-12	1,04,154	92,147
2012-13 (BE)	1,28,429	1,02,900

#### **Organic farming**

\*28. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote organic farming in the country;
- (b) whether Government is taking action to spread awareness about organic farming at the grassroot level; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government of India is promoting organic farming through National Project on Organic

Farming (NPOF), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Macro-Management of Agriculture (MMA), National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF), Network Project on Organic Farming under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the various schemes of Agricultural and Processed Food Development Authority (APEDA).

NPOF scheme provides financial assistance through capital investment subsidy for fruit and vegetable waste/agro-waste compost production units, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides production units, development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs, human resource development through trainings etc. Assistance upto 25% and 33% of financial outlay upto a ceiling of Rs.40 lakhs and 60 lakhs respectively is provided as back ended subsidy for establishment of bio pesticides/bio fertilizers production units and agro waste compost production units respectively.

"National Horticulture Mission" (NHM) provides financial assistance for adoption of organic farming @ Rs. 10,000/- per hectare for maximum area of 4 hectare per beneficiary, for setting up of vermi-compost units @ 50% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs.30,000/- per beneficiary, and for organic farming certification @ Rs.5.00 lakh for a group of farmers covering an area of 50 hectares.

Assistance for decentralized production and marketing of organic fertilizers is also available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) for projects formulated and approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee.

Assistance @ 25% of total cost limited to Rs.1000/- per ha is being provided for integrated nutrient management in conjunction with organic sources of nutrients like FYM, Compost, Vermicompost, Bio-fertilizers etc. under the Macro-management of Agriculture (MMA).

Assistance @ Rs.500 per ha for promoting use of Integrated Nutrient Management-Organic Manures under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility (NPMSHF).

ICAR is implementing a Network Project on Organic Farming to develop package of practices of different crops under organic farming in different agro-climatic regions of the country. ICAR also imparts training and organizes front line demonstrations to educate farmers on various aspects of organic farming.

APEDA, an organization under Ministry of Commerce is implementing National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) to provide various services such as certification, notification of standards, assistance for promotion of exports of organic products etc.

In addition, Government is spreading awareness about organic farming through various extension activities such as exhibitions and fairs, Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres, mass media support activities, radio talks, Kisan Melas, etc.

#### **Quality of food served under MDMS**

\*29. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any mechanism for ascertaining the quality of food served under the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme (MDMS);

(b) whether Government has received any reports or complaints regarding the quality of food served under the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to maintain the quality of food served under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The Mid Day Meal Guidelines stipulate that children at primary stage be provided with a meal to ensure 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of protein and 700 calories of energy and 20 grams of protein at upper primary stage. The food norms for primary and upper primary children are also clearly defined. To ensure that good quality nutritious food is served, there is an extensive monitoring mechanism at school, block, district, State and the national levels. The Scheme is constantly reviewed through Quarterly Progress Reports, in the National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee meetings and during Programme Approval Board meetings. In addition, the Central Review Missions visit the States/UTs for an on the spot assessment and independent Monitoring Institutes also evaluate the Scheme at regular intervals.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, in the last three years and the current year, complaints of poor quality food served to the children have been received. The details of such complaints received at the national level are given in Statement (*See* below).