

Kharif Marketing Season	Rice (October-September)
2008-2009	341.04
2009-2010	314.57
2010-2011	341.98
2011-2012	350.41
2012-2013	#340.44
Average procurement for last five years	339.68
2013-2014 (ongoing)	@213.81

Position as on 16.01.2014, @ Position as on 03.02.2014

Gulbarga-Bidar rail route

†*243. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which work on Gulbarga-Bidar rail route commenced and the estimated expenditure thereof at that time;

(b) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) by when train service between Gulbarga and Bidar would start operating?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) The project for constructing a new line between Gulbarga-Bidar (106.60 Km) was included in the Railway Budget for 1997-98 and approval from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was received in March, 1999. The estimated cost of the project was Rs. 242.42 crore at that time.

(b) Phase-I of the project between Khanapur-Homnabad (38 Km) has been completed. The section between Homnabad-Hallikhed is scheduled for completion

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in 2013-14. Work for the remaining section between Hallikhed - Gulbarga (56.5 Km) has been taken up and section between Gulbarga - Sultanpur (10 Km) has been completed. Against the latest anticipated cost of Rs. 839.83 crore, total cumulative expenditure of Rs. 337.51 crore has been incurred on the project upto March, 2012.

(c) Phase-1 of the project between Khanapur-Homnabad has been commissioned for passenger services on 29.12.2013. Running of train service between the remaining section of the project will start as soon as the remaining work will be completed.

Electoral reforms

*244. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has sought inputs from civil society, experts, political parties and other stakeholders on electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take after taking into account these inputs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Law Commission of India has informed that it has sought inputs from civil society, experts, political parties and other stakeholders on electoral reforms.

(b) The report of the Law Commission is yet to be submitted. On receipt of the report containing the recommendations of the Law Commission on electoral reforms, the matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders.

Rise in prices of essential commodities

*245. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of essential commodities have risen during the last three years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to address this issue; and

(c) whether Government has made any changes in allocation of wheat to APL card holders, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,