

Establishment of a new railway division at Mangalore

*346. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are considering a proposal to establish a new railway division at Mangalore; and
- (b) whether Government of Karnataka has approached/requested/submitted any proposal in this regard, if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Request has been received from the Government of Karnataka for creation of a new railway division with head-quarters at Mangalore.

New divisions on Indian Railways are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other administrative/operational requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency, without any regional considerations. The proposal for creation of a new division with head-quarters at Mangalore, when examined from these aspects, has not been found feasible.

Environmental clearance of railway projects for Uttarakhand

†*347. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway projects for Uttarakhand have been referred to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for its clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (b) if so, the details of dates of sending of these proposals;
- (c) the details of projects which have been granted clearance; and
- (d) the reasons for non-implementation of the approved projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU): (a) At present no ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion, Doubling projects falling partly or fully in the State of Uttarakhand is pending due to clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No forestry clearance was sought/received for any project falling partly or fully in the State of Uttarakhand.

(d) Delay in land acquisition and paucity of funds are the main reasons for non-implementation of the approved projects.

Demand for various items by States under PDS

†*348. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand for supply of wheat, rice, sugar, foodgrains, kerosene and soft coke under the Public Distribution System (PDS) received from each State Government and the quantity allocated to each of them every month during the current year;

(b) whether the demands have been fulfilled to the fullest extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Foodgrains (rice and wheat): During the current year, demands have been received from the States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu etc. for additional allocation under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) over and above the normal TPDS allocations. Based on the demands received from the States/Union Territories (UTs), additional allocations of 58.43 lakh tons of rice and 17.49 lakh tons of wheat have been made to them during the current year to enable them to meet their additional requirements under TPDS. Details of normal TPDS allocation and additional allocation are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

Sugar: Sugar supplied under Public Distribution System (PDS) is not based on demand from the States but on the basis of fixed norms. Details showing the fixed State-wise quota of sugar of PDS is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

Kerosene (SKO): The Government makes quarterly allocation of kerosene (SKO) to States/UTs under PDS on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only as provided under the SKO Control Order 1993. Government has also allowed the States/UTs to draw one month quota of PDS SKO at non-subsidized rates during each financial year w.e.f. 2012-13 for special needs. Details of allocation of PDS SKO during the current year 2014-15 are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

Soft coke: There is no provision for allocation of soft coke by the Government of India under PDS.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.