

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A pilot project for computerisation of city courts in the four major metropolitan cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai has been started. Out of Rs. 14.91 crore sanctioned for the project, the amounts released so far are Delhi (Rs. 4.98 crore), Mumbai (Rs. 1.60 crore), Kolkata (Rs. 1.17 crore) and Chennai (Rs. 0.82 crore). The computerisation of city courts in the four metropolitan cities is expected to be completed during the year 2003-04.

On the direction of the then Chief Justice of India, the National Informatics Centre(NIC) has finalized a Project Report on the upgradation of the computer network of the Supreme Court which, *inter alia*, includes setting up two electronic courts in the Supreme Court in the first phase. An amount of Rs. 4.6 crore to implement the first phase of the project has been placed at the disposal of the Registry of the Supreme Court.

(c) Delay in clearing the cases is due to various factors such as inadequate judge strength and supporting staff, lack of infrastructural facilities including computerisation of courts, procedural delays, lawyer's strike etc.

(d) No time frame can be fixed for computerisation of courts in cities. The Government has undertaken computerisation of city courts in the four major metropolitan cities only as a pilot project. All State Governments are expected to implement similar schemes in their jurisdiction out of their own resources.

Employment Schemes for Assam

*305. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scheme formulated for employment of urban people in the State of Assam during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) the details of funds allocated, amount released and the amount utilised for the same period in Assam?

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No new employment scheme for the urban poor in Assam has been formulated during the year 2001-2002 by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. However, the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has been implementing through the State Governments/UTs, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis including in the State of Assam, with effect from 1.12.1997 with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through (i) encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have studied upto 9th standard and (ii) provision of wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

In addition, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries have been implementing a self-employment scheme, namely, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) with effect from 2nd October, 1993. During 1993-94 the scheme was in operation only in urban areas of the country. Since 1994-95 the scheme is being implemented in both urban and rural areas of the country. Under this scheme educated unemployed youth are assisted to set up tiny units costing upto Rs. 2 lakh in all economical viable activities.

(b) During the year 2001-2002, tentative allocation of Central funds under SJSRY in respect of Government of Assam was Rs. 312.04 lakh. The allocated funds could not be released since the State Government had not furnished the requisite Utilisation Certificates and also did not provide the State share. The State Government was holding unspent funds of Rs. 2511.40 lakh from previous years' releases and reported an expenditure of Rs. 914.45 lakh only during the year 2001-2002.

Under the PMRY, Central Government releases funds for subsidy, training and contingency etc. The funds for subsidy are authorized to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to be passed on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks. Hence the State-wise details are not available. The Central Government releases funds at the pre-determined rate for training and contingency etc. to States/UTs. Under the scheme, Central funds amounting to Rs. 42.8535 lakh have been released to the

State Government of Assam during 2001-2002. The State Government has not yet reported any expenditure out of these releases.

FDI in Print Media

*306. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent decision of Government to allow foreign direct investment in the print media has generated interest in Germany;

(b) whether there has been any offer from Germany on FDI in print media;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether any proposals in this regard have been forwarded and suggested by Germany; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The Government has not received any offer or proposal from Germany for granting permission for FDI in News/Current Affairs or Scientific/Technical/Speciality Journals.

Amendment to Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994

*307. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to amend the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the view points of Delhi Medical Association and Medical Lawyers were sought for and considered before approving the amendments and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) A Bill to amend the Pre-Natal