

(b) the details of funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on different works year-wise;

(c) extent of actual achievements made;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints pertaining to irregularities committed in execution of construction work during the said work/ period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Allocation of funds for the modernisation of various railway stations are provided to the Railway Zones according to their requirements and no state-wise bifurcation of allocations are maintained. During 1993-94 to 1995-96, expenditure of Rs. 8.79 crore, 7.06 crore and 9.35 crore respectively were incurred by Western Railway on various passenger amenity works including modernisation of stations in the state of Gujarat Amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger amenities are provided at stations in Gujarat. These are also augmented wherever so warranted by growth in passenger traffic. Works taken up in this regard are progressing as per schedule.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Death of Children due to Malnutrition in Melghat, Maharashtra

2237. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned, "Malnutrition snuffs out 500 lives in Melghat", Amravati (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether Government have verified the reports of death of hundreds of children in the Melghat tribal-belt due to malnutrition; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Central aid, if any, given to rid the tribal belt of the malady, indicating both short-term and long-term measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Government is aware of the Report.

(b) According to a report of Government of Maharashtra, a total of 212 deaths of pre-school children occurred during the period May to July, 1996 in Amravati district. The causes of deaths have been identified, as high-Fever pneumonia, acute respiratory infections, dysentery, diarrhoea, low birth weight etc. The children who died belonged to all grades of nutritional status ranging from normal to severe malnutrition. A field visit made by DWCD to Amravati district during September 22-25, 1996 confirmed deaths of pre-school children.

(c) The Department of Women & Child Development is involved in the implementation of the ICDS project which provides supplementary nutrition among other services to the pre-school children. There are 14 ICDS projects in district Amravati. Of these, 10 ICDS projects including the two in Dharni and Chikhedara are fully operational. During the current year an amount of Rs.101.92 lakhs has already been released to the State, in first two instalments, towards the ICDS projects in District Amravati.

Decision to Increase the Quantum of Subsidy on Fertilizers

2238. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two day's Chief Ministers' Conference held in July, 1996 has decided to increase the quantum of subsidy on fertilizers substantially to ensure a balanced use, resulting in better productivity and making it available at reasonable prices to farmers;

(b) the rate of concessions announced;

(c) the extent to which the farmers will be helped by this concession in subsidy; and

(d) whether it will have a greater impact on the economy?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) In the Chief Ministers' Conference held in July,