

is: with the marks posted on the title page of the answers book was also conducted. As a result of this, the number of cases where an element of error has been established after scrutiny of marks on the request of the applicant, has declined in 1992 as compared to 1991.

Famine in Bihar

***355. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press reports appearing in various newspapers in the country reporting that famine conditions are developing in the State; of Bihar due to weak monsoon in the State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to save Bihar from likely famine conditions in the State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) According to reports received from the Government of Bihar, the delayed and weak onset of South-West Monsoon in the month of June and the subsequent scanty precipitation in the first 10 days of July, 1992, hampered agricultural operations and damaged paddy seedlings/transplanted crops in the State. However, 44 out of 50 districts in the State received encouraging rainfall during last fortnight which has been beneficial to agricultural operations.

(c) Bihar Govt. has reported that contingency plans have been prepared to fight probable drought/deficient rainfall situation.

Purchase of cooking coal from Australia

***356. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is going to finalise a long term contract with Australia for purchase of cooking coal in October, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited will shortly be issuing a global tender for supply of 2 million tonnes of cooking coal (with an optional quantity of 1 million tonnes) per year for a period of 5 years from October, 1992. Finalisation of the contract will depend upon the response to the tender.

Bilateral negotiations with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers Association

***357. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :**

SHRI MOHD. KHAL-EELUR RAHMAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral negotiations with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association had been held during the recent past over their demands and grievances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has intimated that discussions

have been held at various levels between the Sangathan and the representatives of different service associations including All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association whenever they have brought up their demands/grievances. Some of the important decisions taken by the Sangathan as a result of these discussions are, Presidents of six different associations including AIKVTAs have been nominated on the Sangathan and its Board of Governors Joint Consultative Machinery has been activated, and admission under special dispensation are to be processed in accordance with the recommendations of a committee of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry. It has also been decided to utilise the un-exhausted panels of teaching staff against the existing vacancies and to associate a teachers representative with the Transfer Committee.

Nimhar Agriculture Research Institute

*358. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists of the Nimhar Agriculture Research Institute at Phaltaji in Maharashtra have discovered a novel strategy using Solar Energy to tap inaccessible water in soils and feed it to seedlings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The methodology involve digging a pit in the soil and covering it with either a plastic or a glass still. Solar energy heats up the soil and soil-bound water evaporates

and condenses on the underside of the glass. This water is collected in a bottle and is used for watering seedlings. This methodology is still in an experimental stage and needs to be perfected for its large scale feasibility and cost effectiveness.

गुजरात में मल निकासी संबंधी योजना

*359. श्री रामसिंह राठवा : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने मल निकासी संबंधी कोई योजना केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) किन-किन योजनाओं को स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी गयी है ; और

(घ) किन-किन योजनाओं को अस्वीकार कर दिया गया है और उनके अस्वीकार किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्रीमती शोला कौल) : (क) स (ग) गुजरात सरकार ने बताया है कि उन्होंने कोई मल निपटाने की कोई स्कीम केन्द्रीय सरकार को प्रस्तुत नहीं की है। तथापि, अहमदाबाद नगर विकास प्राधिकरण ने पश्चिमी अहमदाबाद नगर परिसर क्षेत्र में मल निकासी और मल शोधन सुविधायें मूहैया करने के लिए जीवन बीमा निगम से ऋण सहायता प्राप्त करने हेतु तकनीकी दृष्टि से अनुमोदन के लिए एक तकनीकी सहायता रिपोर्ट इस मंत्रालय के केन्द्रीय लोक स्वास्थ्य और पर्यावरणीय इंजीनियरी संगठन (सी पी एच ई ई ओ) को प्रस्तुत की है। यह योजना अहमदाबाद नगर विकास प्राधिकरण को संप्रोधन हेतु भेजी गई है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।