

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The information in respect of Central State Farms being ramaged by the State Farms Corporation of India, is given in the statement enclosed, *see* Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 55]

Inadequate facilities in Indira Gandhi ESI Hospital in East Delhi

1121. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Indian Express of the 31st April, 1990 regarding inadequate facilities, unhygienic-condition prevailing in sensitive departments and acute shortage of medicines in the Indira Gandhi ESI Hospital in East Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the working of the hospital and to remove the deficiencies ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The press-report is factually incorrect. This Hospital was commissioned partly in November, 1988. It is now almost fully functional. It provides facilities for outdoor and indoor care in various specialities. Its casualty department provides round the clock service. E.C.G. and X-ray facilities are also available, for indoor patients. Continuous efforts are being made to further improve the working of the Hospital.

Exploitation of child labour

1122. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 1st May, 1993 under the caption "child workers rally against exploitation"; and

(b) what is the number of child labour in the country and what effective steps Government plan to end their exploitation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987-June, 1988) of the National Sample Survey, the number of child labourers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million.

The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below fourteen years of age in certain specified, occupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their conditions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from working. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948; the Mines Act, 1952; the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States/Union Territories; etc. which either prohibit or regulate the employment of children, in specified areas Government have also formulated the National Policy on Child Labour-1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children.

Expert Committee report on grant of medical allowance etc. to journalists and non journalists

1123. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA.:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL.:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to starred Question 83 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th December, 1989 and state :

(a) whether expert committee appointed to consider medical and other allowances for working journalists had begun to work ;

(b) if so, by when it would submit its report ; and

(c) what are the terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Expert Committee is expected now to submit its report latest by November, 1990.

(c) The terms of the reference are to look into the issues of safety, health and hygiene, including medical allowance, leave travel concession and overtime

allowance in respect of Journalists and non-journalists employees of Newspaper establishment*; and News agencies and making suitable recommendation to Government.

Demolition of historic Kotwali in Chandni Chowk, Delhi

1124. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ANTACH has appealed to the Government to stop demolition of the historic Kotwali in Chandni Chowk for construction of a tourist inn; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Legal cases pending for and against NCCF.

1125. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of legal cases pertaining to business transactions pending in various courts in the country for and against NCCF for the last three years stating the value involved in each case and the period of pendency ;

(b) the amount of fee paid to each counsels engaged in each case indicating their names/addresses stating the procedure adopted in selecting the Counsels; and

(c) what is the Competent Authority in the finalisation of the appointment of Counsels in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loss to Bombay branch of NCCF.

1126. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2987 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th August, 1988 and state :

(a) whether any disciplinary action has since been taken against the officers

found guilty in the said purchases; and

(b) if not, by when Government would take the final decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) and (b) An administrative warning has been issued to the then Dy. Manager (Grocery) of the Regional Office, Bombay for certain procedural lapses. As regards the officer then in charge of Akola Depot, the NCCF has, meanwhile, terminated his services for administrative reasons, with effect from 15-5-89.

Recovery of unpaid amount from Shahdara Consumer Cooperative

1127. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2298 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 1988 and state :

(a) what action has been taken to recover the unpaid dues of NCCF alongwith interest thereon from Shahdara Consumers Federation; and

(b) who are the Officers responsible for this lapse and what disciplinary action has been taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) The arbitration case filed by NCCF before the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Delhi is still continuing.

(b) The officers responsible for the lapse were the then Branch Manager and Asstt. Manager, Kanpur Branch of NCCF. The CBI to whom the case was referred, had recommended departmental action against both the officials. The Branch Manager, who was on deputation from the U.P. Government, had by that time been repatriated to the State Government. The NCCF had, therefore, requested the State Government to take appropriate action against him. The services of the Asstt. Manager involved in the case were terminated by the NCCF in October 1987, after completing the departmental enquiries.