

Consumer Protection Council in Punjab

2280. SHRI L. NARSINGH NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to set up Consumer Protection Council in Punjab, since the imposition of President's rule in the State;

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

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in negative, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to take any action in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) Several steps have been taken by the Central Government to ensure that the statutory institutions envisaged in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 are set up on priority basis. In July, 87 a meeting was held with the State Food Ministers and senior officers of the State Govts./UT Administrations to expedite the implementation of the Act. In addition the Central Government has repeatedly requested the State Governments/U. T. Administrations through several letters, telexes, telegrams to set up the Council and redressal machinery at an early date. As per information available, so far Government of Punjab has notified the Punjab Consumer Protection Rules. However, they have not set up the Consumer Protection Council.

Unhygienic conditions at ISBT, In Delhi

2281. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI;

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which

appeared in the 'Statesman' dated the 8th July, 1988 regarding the chaotic and unhygienic conditions at the Inter State Bus Terminus, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the continuous chaotic and unhygienic conditions at the ISBT putting the travelling passengers to enormous difficulties; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The ISBT was designed to handle about 1,000 buses and 60,000 passengers against which it is now handling over 5,000 buses and 3,00,000 passengers daily. As such, there is huge strain on the existing resources. Moreover, ISBT Management is helpless about honking horns by the State Road Transport drivers or ordinary buses being classified as deluxe buses by the State Road Transport authorities. However, DDA propose to take the under mentioned steps to improve the general cleanliness and remove de-congestion:

(i) Re-positioning and redevelopment of aesthetically constructed ticket windows in the Departure Block.

(ii) Keeping specified area reserved for passengers movement.

(iii) De-congesting the operation by developing Terminal Ii to serve short distance Inter State services.

(iv) Removal of structures in the Arrival Block coming in the circulation area to increase circulation

area for the benefit of passengers | even though it would amount to reduction in earnings of the ISBT to some extent.

(v) Providing stand by generator to meet contingency of power failure.

Irregularities in use of Central Assistance for Drought

2282. SHRI BEKAL UTSAMI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE, be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some State Governments have committed a number of irregularities in the use of the central assistance given to them as flood and drought relief during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): The general irregularities observed in utilising the central assistance approved for natural calamities are as under:—

1. Relief assistance has been utilised for activities not connected with relief;

2. Amounts available for drought relief have been spent in non-drought affected districts;

3. Amounts for employment generation have been spent long after the need for employment arising out of drought was over.

4. State Governments have drawn Central assistance on the basis of anticipated expenditure which was not likely to, and did not, materialise; large amounts have been over-drawn;

5. Amounts available for repair of houses have been utilised for construction of entirely new houses apparently because assistance was

availed of on the basis of exaggerated claims of damage to houses.

6. With assistance for repairs of school buildings, new school buildings have been constructed, apparently for the same reason as above;

7. Full amount of ceiling of expenditure approved for relief operations is not utilised by the prescribed date;

8. Assistance meant for an approved item is diverted for utilisation in the non-entitled items; and

9. For various reasons, the delays occurred in finalising the purchase orders, transportation of equipments, etc., which resulted in non-commissioning of the equipments at the time they are needed.

Losses due to lockout

2283. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what is the extent of loss incurred due to lock-outs during 1986-87 In various Government's organisations/factories; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to minimise such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Information relating to lock-outs is maintained by calendar years. Based on the latest available information, a statement giving loss of mandays, wages and production in public and private sectors due to lockouts during 1986 and 1987 is attached. [See Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 94].

(b) The Government have been maintaining a close and continuous watch on the industrial relations situation in the country. Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States are taking steps to