

Promotion of better health and nutrition among the children

320. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any special programme for promoting better health and nutrition amongst children; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the salient features of the programmes is enclosed.

Statement

Salient features of the programmes being implemented for promoting better health and nutrition among children through different Ministries/ Departments are:—

I. "By Ministry of Health & F. W.

(i) Prophylaxis programme to prevent blindness in children caused by Vitamin 'A' deficiency. It is proposed to cover 75 million children of age group 1—5 years under this programme during the Sixth Plan.

(ii) Prophylaxis programme to prevent nutritional anaemia among children by making available to them tablets containing the recommended intake of iron and folic acid. It is proposed to cover 60 million children in the age group of 1—12 years under this programme during the Sixth Plan.

(iii) Establishment of Paediatric units in the remaining 54 District Headquarters Hospitals and continue inservice training in Maternity and Child Health for Primary Health Centre doctors.

(iv) Nutritional education of medical and para-medical staff and public through booklets, pamphlets, film etc.

II. By Department of Social Welfare

(i) Special nutrition programme for pre-school children in the weaker section of the community, e.g. slum areas, tribal areas and other backward rural areas. The programme has now been transferred to State Sector.

(ii) Integrated Child Development Service Scheme which aims at delivering a package of services to the children, pregnant and nursing mothers. This includes supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check up, referral services, nutrition and health education and non-formal pre-school education. The number of ICDS projects at the time of commencement in 1975-76 was 33. During 1978-79, 67 new projects have been sanctioned. For the year 1979-80, 50 new projects have been sanctioned for which preparatory action has already been initiated.

(iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme: This is being implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and the National Level Voluntary Organisation like Indian Council of Child Welfare, Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh and Harijan Sevak Sangh. This programme was launched in 1970-71 and the present coverage is about 2.3 lakhs. This covers children between the age group of 3—6 years.

III. By Department of Education.

Mid-day Meals Programme to meet the nutrition needs of primary school children in the age group of 6—11 years. The coverage under this programme is about 120 lakhs.

IV. *By Department of Rural Development*

Applied Nutrition programme to meet the nutritional needs of preschool children.

Pending court cases against Railway employees

321. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which were instituted in different courts against the railwaymen who participated in the Railway strike of May, 1974 and how many of them are still pending, zone-wise;

(b) what is the total number of employees involved in these cases; and

(c) by when the pending cases are likely to be settled or withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) to (c) Initially, court cases were instituted by the various State Governments against about 5,800 employees in connection with the strike of May, 1974, out of which cases against 74 employees (69 on the Central Railway, Four on Eastern and One South Eastern Railway) are still pending in various courts.

Final settlement of any case will depend upon the courts in which the cases are pending.

As regards withdrawal of cases, it is for the State Governments to make a review and withdraw the cases. For this purpose, State Governments had already been addressed and also reminded.

Wheeler's monopoly on Railway Bookstalls

322. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article

published in an issue of 'CLARITY', (a new weekly) dated the 13th January, 1979 under the caption "Probe Wheelers' Monopoly on Railway Bookstalls";

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in the matter;

(c) if so, with what results; and

(d) what has happened to Government's erstwhile proposal to hand over the bookstalls at railway stations to the unemployed graduates or to their co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) This article mainly alleges sale of books, magazines, periodicals published by big Newspaper groups, in preference to those published by small publishers, at Railway Stations. These are internal matters between the publishers and the bookstall contractors and Railways are not concerned. Bookstalls naturally sell such material which are more in demand from the passengers. General, bookstalls i.e. stalls other than those allotted by the Railways to philanthropic and religious organisations at railway stations cannot be expected to stock publication not in popular demand in the hope of promoting their sale. Sale of exhibition of obscene and gcurilous literature and any publication to which good, sufficient and reasonable objection can be shewn, is strictly prohibited at Railway stations and frequent checks are exercised by railway officials. Besides the three major bookstall contractors, namely M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co., M/s. Gulab Singh & Sens and M/s. Higginbothams, there are 241 other Bookstall contractors running bookstalls at 393 Railway stations. Since there is nothing in this article which needs investigation, no enquiry has been conducted.

(d) As per present policy of Government, all fresh allotments of bookstalls are made to individual unemployed graduates within the age group of 18 to 30 years, their partner-