

(b) what are the names of directors of the Bengal Paper Mills, Raniganj and what are the specific charges of pollution against the company;

(c) what steps have been taken to protect the health of local people from the pollution; and

(d) whether the management have taken any steps to eliminate pollution; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Government of West Bengal and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Theatre in the Country

752. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of the 29th November, 1977 under the caption "National Theatre May Remain A Dream";

(b) whether Government propose to set up a National Theatre in each State or to assist the State Governments establish such theatres; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present for construction of National Theatre in each State. This Subject would be the concern of the respective State Governments. A proposal for construction of the National Theatre at New Delhi had been formulated some time back, but it was dropped for financial considerations.

Residential accommodation provided to the Director, PWD, Pondicherry

753. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether the residential accommodation provided to the Director of Public Works Department in Pondicherry is permissible under the rules in force at present and whether the floor area covered by the residence is within the prescribed scale for his category of officers;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred by Government, the maintenance and upkeep of the residential area of the building occupied by the Director of Public Works, Pondicherry during the last three years; and

(c) what is the number of offices of the Public Works Department, Pondicherry which at present are accommodated in rented buildings which could have been housed in the Government building in occupation of the Director of Public Works for his residence and what is the annual rent paid by the Pondicherry Administration for the buildings hired for such offices?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) According to the rules, Directors, Public Works Department is eligible for allotment of an area of 2340 sq. ft. including servants' quarters. But the area occupied by him is slightly higher, namely 2484 sq. ft. The portion of the building occupied by the present Director has always been used as the residence of the Director. The building was constructed during the French Regime and, therefore, the building is not in accordance with the present standard.

(b) Total expenditure incurred for improving this area from 1973 to 1978 is Rs. 40,371, out of which Rs. 39,931 were incurred while the

building was occupied by the then Chief Secretary.

(c) Four offices of Public Works Department are at present located in rented building. It cannot be said that because Director has been given the residential accommodation, other offices of Public Works Department are located outside the building. Government pays annually Rs. 33,342 as the rent for the private accommodation taken on rent

754. [Transferred to the 3rd August, 1978].

P.M.'s Letter to the State Governments' on Family Welfare

755. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has addressed letters to all State Governments on family welfare programme in which he is reported to have stated to withhold 8 per cent of the plan assistance in cases the Central Government are not satisfied with state's performance in this regard; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister has addressed a letter to all the Chief Ministers on 9th May, 1978 and another letter on 14th July, 1978 [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 56.] In the first letter, the Prime Minister has drawn the attention of the Chief Ministers to the importance of a more concentrated and 'meaningful application of the programme and has said that success in the programme is indispensable to our economic development. In this letter, it has also been conveyed to the States that a linkage is being established between the performance

in respect of family planning work in the States and release of 8 per cent of Central plan assistance to them. This linkage will be on the basis of the formula conveyed to the States by the Planning Commission's letters No. PC(P);4/CA/76, dated 18-2-1977 and PC(P)/4/CA/76, dated 30th June, 1978. [See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 57].

(b) The Government have received replies to the Prime Minister's letter of 9th May, 1978 from the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Goa, Daman and Diu explaining their respective position. These are under consideration.

The Chief Minister, Bihar has replied to the letter of 14th July, 1978 from the Prime Minister stating that he is taking suitable action as mentioned by the Prime Minister.

Remunerative Price for the Agricultural Produce

756. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of persistent demand from a large section of the agricultural community for remunerative prices for their produce; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to meet their long standing demand?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) Government are fully alive to the 'need for assuring remunerative prices to the producers of agricultural commodities. For this purpose, Government have been fixing procurement/minimum support prices for important agricultural commodities and organising support purchases at the announced prices through public/cooperative agencies.