

caption of "scandal of iron posts worth many lakhs of rupees in the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority";

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b) Central Government does not sanction any amount either as loan or as grant specifically for any street and bustee electrification scheme under the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority. Street lighting forms part of the Traffic and Transportation schemes of the CMDA programme. Electrification in bustee forms part of the overall Bustee Improvement Programme. Total Central assistance given to the CMDA as grants for Bustee Improvement Programme during the 4th Plan Period amounts to Rs. 10.39 crores. This amount has been utilised in undertaking improvement works in a number of bustees covering 11.22 lakhs bustee population in the Calcutta Metropolitan District Area. Till March, 1974, 4.200 light points had been provided in the various bustees.

(c) and (d) Yes. The news report refers to certain alleged irregularities in the purchase of street lighting poles. The matter has been enquired into by the CMDA and it has been established that the purchases were made in accordance with normal procedures and that no irregularities were committed.

**National Scholarships awarded by the Central Government to rural students**

539. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those students who are permanent residents of villages but happen to study in Municipal Committee areas are not entitled to get National Scholarships awarded by the Central Government to rural students on the basis of marks obtained by them in the 8th Class or 10th Class;

(b) if so, how many rural students have been deprived of their scholarship during

the last two years because of this condition: and

what steps the Central Government are taking to remove the condition?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) Under the Scheme of National Scholarships at the Secondary Stage for Talented Children from Rural Area, Scholarships are awarded for study at the secondary stage of education for two best rural students in each Community Development Block on the basis of an examination to be conducted for the purpose by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. According to the Rules of the Scheme, a student who is reading in a school located in a Community Development Block in Class VI/VIII is eligible to compete for scholarship, provided he has studied in such a school for at least one year before he appears for the examination. As such a student, although he belongs to a rural area but is residing and studying in an urban or Municipal Committee area, which is not a Community Development Block, will not be eligible for the scholarship.

(b) Information as to how many rural students studying in urban/Municipal Committee areas have not competed for these scholarships is not available. However, no eligible student has been deprived of this scholarship.

(c) As the Scheme is intended only for the talented rural children who are actually residing and studying in schools located in Community Development Block, it is not considered necessary to modify the existing conditions of eligibility for these scholarships.

संसद् सदस्यों के बंगलों के बाहरी हिस्सों पर सफेदी

40. श्री राजनारायण : क्या निर्माण और आवास मंत्री वह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या संसद् सदस्यों के नई दिल्ली स्थित बंगलों तथा फ्लैटों के बाहरी