

(b.) Yes, Madam.

(c) Yes, Madam. On decontrol, the price of cement in the deficit States is likely to increase at least to the extent of the amount by which the actual expenditure on the transport of cement to these States exceeds the all India average freight at present included in the f.o.r. destination price.

(d) Under the existing system, the consumers in the deficit States have been enjoying a benefit or a concession which will no longer be available to them on the introduction of decontrol with effect from the 1st January 1970. Consequently the question of affording relief does not arise.

**CARRYING OF HUMAN EXCRETA ON HEADS BY SCAVENGERS**

\*30. SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States in which the practice of carrying human excreta on the heads by scavengers still exists and

(b) the steps that are being taken by Government to stop this practice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. GOV-

INDA MENON) : (a) and (b) The problem of Manual disposal of night soil has been given high priority for speedy elimination. A committee under Prof. Malkani was appointed to go into the details of this problem and to propose measures for its effective eradication. The recommendations of the Malkani Committee were accepted and recommended to the State Governments for adoption. Most of the recommendations fell within the sphere of responsibilities of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and had actually to be implemented by the Municipalities. The Government of India was directly concerned only with the policy and financial aspect of the Committee's recommendations regarding abolition of the system of carrying night soil as head loads by introducing wheel barrows, i

Liberalised financial assistance for implementing the scheme was immediately

made available to the State Governments-Upto 1966-67 Rs. 123-75 lakhs have been spent on this scheme.

The scheme for eradication of the practice of manual disposal of night soil has made good progress. In Kerala and Maharashtra particularly, this practice has almost been eliminated.

**CUTTACK PARADEEP RAH. LINK**

1. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present position in regard to land acquisition for the construction of the Paradeep-Cuttack railway line;

(b) the extent to which earth work and construction of bridges have been done uptil now; iind

(c) whether the aforesaid works have been done in accordance with the time schedule for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) to (c)

The railway has so far been given possession of land for a length of 24 Kms. from Cuttack end out of the entire length of 84 Kms. The earthwork and construction of bridges is being taken in hand as land is made available to the Railways.

**MICROWAVE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN INDIAN RAILWAYS**

2. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the time since when the microwave telecommunication system has been introduced in the Indian Railways;

(b) what are the details of such telecommunication system; and

(c) the time since when it has also been started on the Southern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) December, 1967.

(to) The microwave radio telecommunication system now being introduced progressively on the trunk routes of the Railways is expected to provide reliable, adequate and improved operational circuits, connecting Zonal Railway Head-