

Municipal Committee, they charge Rs. 2.50 and Re. 1/- respectively per month per child in Nursery schools/Classes run by them. However, some of the private Nursery Schools are charging high tuition fees. The question of registration and recognition of the Pre-Primary Schools and conditions thereof is under consideration.

Report of Sarkar Committee on Cow Protection

113. SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI :
 SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :
 SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :
 SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL :
 SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarkar Committee on Cow Protection has submitted any report to Government;

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

(c) if not, what are the reasons for delay in submitting the report; and

(d) when the Committee was constituted and by when it is likely to complete its work ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The Committee presently engaged in finalising the report and had requested the Government for some more time to enable it to submit the report to the Government.

(d) The Committee was initially constituted on 29th June, 1967 and had to be reconstituted on 7th April, 1972, following the withdrawal of the Sarvadaliya Goraksha Mahabhiyan Samiti from the Committee. The Committee is now required to submit its report by 31st May, 1977.

Damage to Irrigation Embankments in Assam

114. DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHABRA-BARTI:
 SHRI NIRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHARY.
 SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHETTRI:
 SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN:
 SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of damage cause to irrigation embankments by the recent floods in Assam; and

(b) what are the details of the assistance the Central Government propose to give to the Assam Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH) : (a) Flood protection embankments were reported to have been damaged/breached/eroded at 14 places in Brahmaputra basin and 7 places in Barak basin during the recent floods. No damage to irrigation embankments has, however, been reported so far.

(b) No request for assistance in this regard has been received from the State Government.

White Tigers in the Country

115. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:
 SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:
 SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
 SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sudden decline in the number of white tigers, in captivity, in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of white tigers in the country at present. and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to save this rare species of animals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) Yes.

(b) Continuous inbreeding is believed to be the main reason.

(c) 20 in the various Zoos in India.

(d) Since this rare variety of tiger is not breeding successfully in the third generation, attempts to infuse new blood by hybridizing white tigers with normal coloured tigers are being made to overcome the ill-effects of inbreeding.

Fall in Birth Rate in States

116. SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the percentage of fall in the birth rate in various States/Union Territories as a result of Family Planning drive during the year 1975-76 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): As a result of the Family Planning programme, it is estimated that about 24.5 million births have been averted since the inception of the programme upto March, 1976, and the birth rate at National level has come down from 41 per thousand population in 1961 to about 35 per thousand in 1975 thus showing a reduction in birth rate of about 14% during this period. Corresponding estimates for the various States are not available for want of the requisite parameters at State level.

Contribution of Private Doctors, Social Workers and Women Leaders to Gear up Family Planning Movement

117. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 243 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th May, 1976 and state:

(a) what contribution has so far been made by private doctors, social workers and women leaders to gear up family planning movement in the country; and

(b) what incentives and facilities have been given to these persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE):

(a) Private doctors, Social Workers, women leaders and other Social and Voluntary Organisations are actively helping in the educational, motivational and service activities of Family Planning Programme. Special schemes are also being framed to secure their greater involvement.

(b) These bodies are being given grant-in-aid to run Family Planning Centres, establish additional beds for sterilization and for organising and educational and motivational activities. The number of Urban Family Planning Centres run by the Voluntary Organisations, according to the latest information available is 285 out of the total number of 1809 such Centres. Similarly, Voluntary Organisations are maintaining 579 Sterilisation beds out of the total number of 2665 beds in the country. An amount of Rs. 119 lakhs has been allocated for the current financial year for this purpose.

Checking of Adulteration in Spices etc.

118. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the various steps which Government have taken to check adulteration in spices, canned food and edible oils since the proclamation of emergency in the country and with what results?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): The following steps have been taken to intensify activities against adulteration in food-stuffs including spices, canned foods and edible oils, since the proclamation of emergency:

1. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act has been amended so as to plug the loopholes in its implementation and make the penalties more deterrent. For processed foods like spices, canned foods and edible oils, the penalties have been increased. Life imprisonment can be awarded now when adulteration is likely to cause death or grievous hurt. The prosecution procedures have been simplified to curb delaying tactics by the offenders and provision has been made for summary trials.