

(c) whether Government contemplates any policy in consultation with State Governments to provide uninterrupted power supply to farmers for at least eight hours in a day to take up agriculture activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State to different categories of consumers/sectors including agriculture comes under the purview of the respective State Government/State Power Utility. The duration of uninterrupted power supply to be given to any category of consumer including agriculture consumers is also decided by the respective State Government/State Power Utilities.

The Government of India only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by establishing power plants in Central Sector and allocating power therefrom to the States/UTs to mitigate the shortage.

As per the information given by the States to the Central Electricity Authority, the average hours of three phase power supply to agriculture sector during the current year 2013-14 (upto November, 2013) is in the range of 5 hours to 24 hours for different States.

(c) and (d) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and Restructured-Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) of Government of India supplement the efforts of the State Governments for strengthening of the distribution infrastructure to provide access to electricity to every household in the country.

As per information available with the Central Electricity Authority, some States have taken initiatives to provide separate feeders for providing the improved power supply to non-agricultural rural consumers and regulated supply to agricultural consumers for fixed hours on rotation basis. States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have started the programme for feeder segregation for giving regulated reliable supply to agriculture.

#### **High rate of infant mortality in Assam**

\*62. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam has one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) As per Registrar General of India (RGI), Sample Registration System (SRS) report 2012, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for Assam is 55 per 1000 live births which is the second highest in the country after Madhya Pradesh (56 per 1000 live births).

(b) As per Registrar General of India, medical reasons for infant mortality include perinatal conditions, respiratory infections, diarrhoeal disease, congenital anomalies and other infectious and parasitic diseases.

(c) Health being a state subject, State Governments shoulder the primary responsibility in this regard. Efforts of States are being supplemented with central assistance under the National Rural Health Mission, now expanded into a National Health Mission, covering urban areas as well.

Reducing infant mortality is a thrust area under the National Health Mission and key strategies include promotion of institutional delivery through Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), strengthening facility based care for sick infants including free entitlements under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), home based new born care through visits by ASHAs, introduction of child health screening for 4Ds *i.e.* defects at birth, deficiencies, diseases, development delays and their management under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), capacity building of health care providers to upgrade their skills to manage common new born and childhood diseases and vaccination of children against seven vaccine preventable diseases under the Universal Immunization Programme.

#### **Circulation of counterfeit currency**

\*63. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the active circulation counterfeit/fake currency notes in the country, and if so, details thereof;

(b) whether some foreign countries and extremist organizations are connected with this; and