

(a) whether it is a fact that departmental enquiry has normally to be completed within six months, as per Central Civil Services Rules, 1965;

(b) if so, the details of departmental enquiries in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan which are pending/incomplete for the past one, two, three, four or more years;

(c) the details of such delay, enquiry-wise;

(d) the details of provisions for action against officers responsible for such delays; and

(e) the details of officers against whom such action has been taken/is to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) The Central Civil Services Rules, 1965 has not prescribed any time limit for completion of the departmental enquiries.

Department Enquiries against Group 'A' Officers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Head quarter/Regional Office; Principals and Vice-Principals/ Principal Gr. II of the Kendriya Vidyalayas which are Group 'A' & 'B' respectively are instituted by the KVS (HQ) while the Departmental Enquiries against other Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' employees are instituted by the concerned Regional Office and Vidyalayas and details & status position of the particular group of employees are maintained by the respective office only. The total number of Departmental Enquiries pending/incomplete at Headquarters in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for the last one, two, three, four and more years are 07, 01, 01 and 03 respectively. Similar information in respect of Group 'B', 'C' & 'D' employees is 15, 8, 3 and 10 respectively. The delays are largely on account of non-cooperation of the charged officers, stay orders by Tribunals or courts, frequent adjournments on various grounds given by the enquiry officer.

Efforts are always made by the KVS to expedite the enquiries/departmental proceedings. There is no specific provision for action against the officer for delay. However, if there is any deliberate omission/commission for delaying the inquiry, suitable disciplinary action can always be taken against the delinquent officers. However, no such necessity has arisen for such action.

Water purification plant for the railways

*26. PROF M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has announced recently setting up of water

[1 March, 2002]

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purification plant and an independent power plant for the railways;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) how Government would go about in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) will set up water purification plants for manufacturing and supply of pure drinking water on Railways. Regarding independent power plant, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 18.02.2002 between the Ministry of Railways and National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) for setting up of joint venture power projects. As per MoU, a project committee consisting of members from Ministry of Railways and NTPC shall be constituted to prepare the techno-economic feasibility study report. On the basis of report appropriate action shall be taken.

Chilli prices in Karnataka

*27. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that chilli prices have fallen steeply in the country; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no Minimum Support Price mechanism for chillies; if so, what are the details of steps proposed to be taken in that direction;

(c) the total production of chillies in Karnataka during the last three years and the rates of procurement, year-wise; and

(d) whether Government propose for Market Intervention Scheme in Karnataka; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The all India annual average of monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of dry chillies has fallen from 262.4 in 2000 to 248.9 in 2001 indicating a decline of 5.15 percent. However, during the first two months of the current year the WPI picked up to 259.2. The decline in prices is mainly due to cheap availability