

Beas Project

*458. **Shri D. C. Sharma;**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the Beas Project is held up due to uncertainty of aid; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to keep the work going?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Relief to Drought-Affected Areas

*459. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to amend the Central and State Rules for declaring any areas as famine-affected and the mode of calculation for the grant of relief to the different States; and

(b) if so, its details?

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No. There is only a proposal to modify the policy of financial assistance to State Governments for relief expenditure.

(b) The details of the proposal have not yet been fully worked out.

Allocation for Social Services in Third Plan

*460. **Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the total cut in the allocation for social services in the last year of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) how is this being distributed between the different nation-building services?

The Minister of Planning (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) There has been no

cut in the allocation for Social Services in the last year of the Third Plan. As against an anticipated expenditure of Rs. 318.4 crores in 1964-65, the budget estimate for 1965-66 is Rs. 411.3 crores and the likely expenditure is estimated at about Rs. 413.9 crores.

(b) Does not arise.

Restrictions on Import of Drugs

*461. **Shri Indrajit Gupta;**
Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri Madhu Limaye;
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia;
Shri Kishen Pattanayak;
Shri Maurya:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that total ban on imports of some essential drugs and severe restrictions on others imposed by Government have produced a major crisis in the medical field;

(b) whether Government are also aware that as a result, treatment of serious cases of illnesses is being seriously jeopardised and black-market is flourishing in medicines and drugs; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in the matter?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Government have not imposed a total ban on import of any essential drug. However, following the out-break of hostilities with Pakistan, the list of importable items was abridged so as to include the most essential drugs to ensure that within the limited amount of foreign exchange available the maximum quantity of these essential drugs could be imported. Other drugs are also permitted to be imported by the Established Importers upon specific requests from them, if they are considered essential.

(b) Government have not received any reports either of any crisis in the medical institutions or of difficulties in