

CENTRAL DRUGS LABORATORY

*1975. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the Central Drugs Laboratory from Calcutta to Lucknow; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) Attention is invited to the reply given to Part (a) of unstarred question No. 448, dated the 17th July, 1952.

REPORT ON LOSSES AND DAMAGES TO GOODS IN TRANSIT

*1976. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Director of the Railway Board who has been appointed to investigate into the cases of losses and damages to goods in transit, has submitted any report of his work; and

(b) how far his jurisdiction of work extended?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A Director of Railway Board on leave preparatory to retirement was recalled to duty to investigate into the causes of losses and damages to goods in transit.

(b) The monthly salary of the Officer was Rs. 3,000 per month plus Overseas pay of £13-6-8 per month.

The terms of reference were:

(i) To investigate into the causes of abnormally high compensation claims on railways and to suggest and initiate means to reduce them to the minimum.

(ii) To recommend improvements by adopting mechanical processes or otherwise in the procedure of booking passengers and/or merchandise so as to provide more prompt and efficient service and reduce the total cost entailed by cumbersome manual methods.

POPULATION PROBLEMS

*1977. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India's opinion has been sought by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to hold a World Conference on Population problems;

170 P.S.D.

(b) if so, what are the reactions of Government in this regard; and

(c) the important points that have been suggested to be discussed in the proposed conference?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is still under discussion with the Secretariat of the United Nations.

FOOD SCARCITY IN PEPSU

*1978. **Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost the whole of the Mohendergarh District and some parts of the Sangrur District of PEPSU in Jind and Narwana Tehsils are under famine conditions since last eighteen months;

(b) what steps have been taken in the matter so far; and

(c) whether the Central Government have given any financial help as famine relief to that State (PEPSU)?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) It is correct that scarcity conditions are prevailing in these areas.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 36.]

(c) Famine relief is the responsibility of State Governments.

SPECIAL BOARD FOR RECRUITMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES

*1979. **Shri Jatav-vir:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the late Sardar V. Patel when he was Home Minister in 1946 promised in reply to Shri N. Shivraji the then M.L.A. to set up a special Board for the recruitment of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in the matter; and

(c) whether Government will constitute such a Board and pool together all the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes in all grades of service and make recruitment through the Board so as to ensure that no post reserved for the Scheduled Castes go unfilled by a candidate of these Castes on the plea of non-availability of Scheduled Castes suitable candidates?