

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA) : (a) to (c) In spite of increase in input cost, freights, general price increase etc. and infrastructural constraints, there has not been any abnormal increase in price of cement during the last 6-7 months. At present there is no statutory control on price. The prices vary in different markets and consumption centres frequently due to several factors such as the extent of competition, the distance of consumption centres from the factory, mode of transport, seasonal variation in demand, temporary constraints in movement and supply in particular market, brand image of cement produced by certain companies etc. The average retail price of cement per bag of 50 kgs. ranged between Rs. 125-130 in 1994-95 while during the current year, the price ranged between Rs. 130-135. the slight increase is only due to general increase in price. Apart from delicensing the industry, government is encouraging creation of fresh capacity in order to strengthen the market mechanism for controlling abnormal increase in price, government is also providing the necessary infrastructural support to the industry including supply of railway wagons on a priority basis for movement of cement from surplus to deficit areas.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Modernisation of Hospitals

2518. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister for HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a project from the Government of Kerala for procuring equipment for the modernisation of the Cardiology Department of the Medical College Hospital, Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the above request?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (b) The Government of Kerala has sent a Project Report for improving the laboratory services in the five Government medical colleges and selected hospitals of the State Government for seeking approval for financial assistance from some Agencies in Finland. Ministry of Finance have not supported the proposal for such assistance.

Electrification of Railway Line

2519. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware that Delhi-Rohtak section is partially electrified;

(b) whether NCR planning Board suggested to

electrify the above route so as to run EMU trains thereon; and

(c) if so, by when the said route is likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) the Delhi-Shakurbasti Section of Delhi-Rohtak route is already electrified. At present, there is no proposal to electrify the remaining section, viz. Shakurbasti to Rohtak.

Communicable Diseases

2520. SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the communicable diseases are on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to eradicate these communicable disease;

(c) whether any action plan is being initiated for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) As per data received by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, there is no increase in Communicable diseases like cholera and Gastroenteritis in the country.

(c) and (d). An Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. J.S. Bajaj, Member Planning Commission has been constituted on 8.3.95 to comprehensively review the public health system in general and the quality of epidemic surveillance and control strategies in particular. The report is to be submitted by the end of December, 95.

Another Group was also set up under the convenorship of Health Secretary to formulate a comprehensive National Programme on sanitation and Environmental Hygiene on the lines of a Technology Mission. The Group submitted its report to the Government.

[Translation]

National Security

2521. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national security of the country is continuously deteriorating; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) The national security

environment of a country depends on various global, regional and internal factors. There have been some developments in recent past, both in international arena and in the sub-continent which have bearing on India's national security. The passage of Hank Brown amendment clearing the supply of arms etc. to Pakistan worth US \$370 million approximately has implications for the region. All measures required are being taken to defend the security and integrity of India.

2. The other important factors having bearing on India's security are rising fundamentalism in some closeby countries, export of terrorism and proxy war by Pakistan. The Government keeps a close watch on all the developments affecting India's security. Threat perceptions are continuously reviewed and appropriate steps taken to safeguard India's security and integrity. Within the available resources, the Government is systematically modernising the Armed Forces, providing them with state-of-the-art weapons and equipment. Simultaneously indigenous development and production of items needed by the forces is being encouraged.

[English]

Spread of Diseases

2522. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any study regarding the spread of various diseases due to total absence of cleaning operation of garbage and dirt from the rural areas;

(b) if so, the results thereof and the recommendations made in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Infectious diseases are known to occur due to unsanitary conditions, including collection of garbage and dirt. State Governments have been advised to revamp their Public health systems for epidemic control and take steps to improve the civic facilities and project infrastructure in keeping with public health requirements. Emphasis has also been placed on disease surveillance, undertaking preventing measures and establishment of early warning systems.

BHPC Power Projects

2523. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether three power projects submitted by the Bihar Hydel Power Corporation (BHPC) were sanctioned in January 1995 but the 10 per cent advance as per terms has not been sanctioned so far; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 10% initial release against the Ministry's commitment towards Capital Subsidy for the Sandni, Lower Ghagri and Netarhat SHP projects in Bihar, amounting to Rs. 27.12 lakhs, was made in April, 1995.

[Translation]

Ordnance Factory

2524. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was proposal to set up an ordnance factory in Chatra district (Previously Hazaribagh district) in Bihar and land was also selected for this purpose but later on the said ordnance factory was set up somewhere else out of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for which the said factory could not be set up in Chatra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION & SUPPLIES) (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (c) There was a proposal about ten years back for a new factory to manufacture propellants; a site in Hazaribagh district was one of the alternatives proposed for it. On detailed examination of the proposal it was, however, concluded that no new factory for manufacture of propellants needed to be set up since the requirement could be met from the existing ordnance factories and the civil sector. The proposals to set up a new factory was, accordingly, dropped altogether.

[English]

Child Marriage

2525. SHRI K.M. MATHEW : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the social evil of child marriage has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to curb this social evil;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to launch a Panchayati Raj level mechanism and setting up Monitoring Cells to enforce the Child Marriage Restraint Act effectively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is not readily