

Villages/Model Bastis will be identified through a consultative process in which the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), State Government as well as the implementing agency will be actively involved.

(c) HUDCO proposes to launch this scheme in August, 1997.

[Translation]

Unemployment in Bihar

71. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme is being evolved by the Union Government to check increasing unemployment in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOR): (a) to (c) No special scheme is being evolved by the Union Government to check increasing unemployment in Bihar. However, the Government is implementing a number of self employment and wage employment programmes throughout the country, in which the State of Bihar is also included. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has one scheme for Self Employment i.e. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and two schemes for wage employment i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in rural areas. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) is implemented in urban areas. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is implemented both in rural and urban areas.

[English]

Cardio Disease by Tobacco

72. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in the country suffering from Cardio vascular diseases caused by tobacco;

(b) the concrete steps proposed to be taken to ban the smoking in public places and public conveyances; and

(c) the policy of the Government to phase out cultivation and manufacture of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Information on the number of people suffering from cardio-vascular diseases caused by tobacco is not available. However, estimates has been derived

indirectly by utilising the available information on attributable risk of Coronary Heart Diseases (CHD) due to tobacco, and number of prevalent cases of CHD cases in the country. Taking an estimate of 2-fold risk, the number of cases attributable to tobacco works out to about 13 lakh persons.

(b) Under administrative instructions, tobacco smoking is prohibited in Hospitals, dispensaries and other health care establishments, educational institutions, Conference Rooms, domestic air flights, air-conditioned Chair Cars and air-conditioned sleeper coaches in trains, sub-urban trains and air-conditioned buses under the control of Government of India. Further in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, smoking is prohibited in public places and public conveyances.

(c) The Central Tobacco Research Institute (ICAR) has identified a number of suitable alternate crops like Mustard, Safflower, Sunflower, Soyabean, Groundnut, Ragi, Onion, Garlic and Sugarcane in the FCV Tobacco growing areas. Edd Efforts are being made to propogate the cultivation of these crops in the Tobacco growing areas.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Jhuggi-Jhopari Dwellers in Chandigarh

73. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of various jhuggi-jhopari clusters in 1996-97 in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and the amount spent thereon;

(b) whether the Government have any plans for the rehabilitation of these jhuggi-jhopari clusters during 1997-98;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether basic amenities have not been provided to such slum dwellers who have not been rehabilitated so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Agitation by Bidi Workers

74. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bidi Workers of Godha and Gohalpur (Jabalpur M.P.) had launched an agitation in protest against Government's decision regarding fixing of wages and provision of other amenities;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Prithvi Missile

75. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has decided to beef up its military arsenal and launch a diplomatic offensive as a part of three-pronged strategy to India's Prithvi missile;

(b) if so, whether this decision of Pakistan violate the agreement reached between the two countries at the Secretary-level talks held in Islamabad;

(c) if so, whether Pakistan has again initiated propaganda against India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (d) Government are aware that Pakistan maintains a military arsenal far in excess of its legitimate defence requirements. Government are also aware of its persistent propaganda regarding the Prithvi missiles. Such propaganda is inconsistent with the firm intention of both countries to eschew hostile propaganda and provocative actions. This intention is contained in the Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of the Foreign Secretary-level talks held in Islamabad in June 1997. Government is carefully and continuously assessing the implications of Pakistan's military build-up and is taking all necessary steps to safeguard the national security.

Indo-US Relation

76. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh initiatives have been taken to strengthen Indo-US cooperation in the era of liberalisation;

(b) whether the President of USA has accepted the invitation to visit India during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Government of India and the Government of the United States have recently had useful discussions during the June, 1997 visit to the US by Minister of State for External Affairs. Issues of mutual interest in the bilateral and international context were discussed during this visit in keeping with the desire of both countries to have a broad-based dialogue and relationship.

(b) and (c) Government have been informed that the US President is considering a visit to India during the 50th Anniversary celebrations of India's independence

[Translation]

IAS Officers

77. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) sanctioned strength of IAS officers in the country, State-wise, as on date;

(b) actual strength of IAS officers in the country, State-wise, as on date;

(c) whether orders regarding reservation for SC/ST/OBC are implemented in appointments of IAS officers;

(d) if so, the number of SC/ST/OBC/IAS officers at present in each State;

(e) the number of vacant posts of IAS reserved for SC/ST/OBC, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of IAS cadres, state wise, as on 17th July, 1997 and actual strength of IAS officers as on 17th July, 1997, is given in the attached statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of SC/ST/OBC IAS officers State-wise, as on 17th July, 1997, is given in the attached statement-II.

(e) Reservation in the IAS for SC/ST/OBC is vacancy based and not post based. All vacancies in the IAS are filled up in accordance with the reservation policy of the Government.

(f) In view of the answer at (e) above, the question does not arise.