

pulsory education upto the primary level throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the obstacles in implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b), Article 45 of the Constitution of India provides for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. Primary education is already free all over the country in all Government, local body, and aided schools. Some States/UTs, have also legislations for compulsory primary education.

Memorandum from North Frontier Railway Dining Car and Catering Contractors Workers Union, Siliguri Branch

1848. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received a memorandum dated 5 February, 1985 from North Frontier Railway Dining Car Catering Contractors Workers Union, Siliguri Branch;

(b) if so, what are their grievances;

(c) the steps Government are taking to redress their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances are that due to cancellation of A.T. Mail and Vaisali Express, the workers of vegetarian and non-vegetarian refreshment rooms at Siliguri Junction have become jobless and are facing starvation. As there is no train during day time and the catering contractors also fled away and these workers have not yet been absorbed as departmental staff.

(c) Although the railway decided to departmentalise the catering establishment at Siliguri Junction, this could not be

done fully as the contractors of the vegetarian refreshment room and 19 other vending units who were served notice of eviction obtained injunction order from the Calcutta High Court and are now operating under Court's order. Besides, the contractor of non-vegetarian refreshment room has also not yet vacated and handed over the possession of the refreshment room to the railway administration. Steps have been initiated to get the room vacated. The question of considering absorption of staff of the contractor as the Railway employees does not arise at this stage as the premises have not yet been handed over to the Railway.

Directions and Guidelines to States to Implement Various Social Welfare Measures

1849. **SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the machinery to implement the various social welfare measures in the States ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a number of States, the social welfare Directors are saddled with several other responsibilities, leaving them little time for any of tasks ;

(c) whether the work relating to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and Backward classes is in itself so important and time consuming that the primary job of social welfare is often relegated to the background ; and

(d) whether Government have issued directions and guidelines to the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) No, Sir, it is not adequate in all States.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir, in respect of certain States.

(d) Yes, Sir, a copy of the Resolution unanimously passed by the State Social Welfare Ministers in their Conference presided over by the Minister of State for Social Welfare on 28-9-84 in New Delhi is laid on the Table of House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—792/85].

Siltation in Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

1850. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted the total loss of storage capacity during 1983-84 due to siltation in major and medium irrigation projects ;

(b) the extent of loss of irrigation potential during the same year due to siltation ; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Irrigation and Power does not maintain information on loss of storage capacities due to siltation in major and medium reservoirs in the country. No loss of storage capacity in major and medium projects during 1983-84 due to siltation and loss of irrigation potential there from have been reported by the State Governments.

(c) Twenty-eight reservoir catchments are receiving soil conservation treatment under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture under which measures such as afforestation, economic plantation and raising of utility trees, contour bunding, terracing, check dams and pasture development which reduce soil erosion and consequent siltation are included. Increased stress is being laid on afforestation. States are

also advised to take similar measures on their own.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance Provided to Uttar Pradesh for Irrigation Projects

*1851. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the on-going irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh which are being provided financial assistance by the Centre ;

(b) the dates on which work was started on each project ;

(c) the project-wise estimated amount of expenditure and the amount spent so far on the various projects ;

(d) the time by which the work on each project is likely to be completed ; and

(e) the projects which are lagging behind their scheduled time of completion and the extra expenditure likely to be incurred on various projects due to non-completion thereof in time project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKAR-ANAND) : (a) Irrigation projects are to be planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments themselves. The Central assistance is given in the form of block loans and block grants and is not tied to any particular scheme or sector of development. However the State Government is also entitled to 70% of additional Central assistance on the basis of reimbursement of credit/loans on the externally aided projects.

(b) to (d). The requisite information pertaining to Major and Medium irrigation projects in the States is given in the statement attached.