

(a) whether a Committee appointed to inquire into the major fire at the Sher Singh Maternity block of Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan Hospital, New Delhi sometime back has submitted its report ;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the Committee ; and

(c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the finding of the Enquiry Committee the fire was not accidental. All the circumstantial evidence points out to the possibility of its being an intentional and deliberate act. The Enquiry Committee has concluded that to fix responsibility, a proper and thorough investigation of the case and the background of persons involved should be made.

(c) The Police have investigated the matter and have arrested two persons who have been challenged.

Measures to Check Food Borne Diseases

7486. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any evaluation to know the extent to which food—borne diseases are spread by small catering establishments, way-side restaurants and street vendors by selling food stuffs ;

(b) if so, the result thereof ; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to check the spread of food-borne diseases by such catering establishments considering the problem as an integral part of primary health care system ;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, the regulatory provisions incorporated include *inter alia* as under :

1. Use of carbide gas in ripending of fruits prohibited.
2. Use of flesh of naturally dead animals or fowls not permitted.
3. Sale of insect-damaged fruits are not allowed.
4. Conditions for sale include regulations relating to use of utensils or containers for preparation and storage of food prescribed.
5. No person is allowed to manufacture any article of food including prepared food or ready-to-serve food except under a licence.

Rate of Interest on Provident Fund of Teachers of Government and aided Schools in Delhi

7487. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRI RAHIM KHAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of interest on the Provident Fund of the teachers of aided schools of Delhi is 5 per cent ;

(b) whether the rate of interest on the Provident Fund of teachers of Government schools in Delhi is 12 per cent ;

(c) if so, the reasons for the variation ; and

(d) steps Government propose to take to remove this disparity in the rates of interest for these two categories of teachers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) As per the procedure specified under Delhi School Education Rules, 1973, the contribution towards Provident Fund in aided schools is required to be deposited in Savings Bank Account of a Nationalised Bank/Post Office and accordingly such deposits earn rate of interest as is admissible on Savings Bank Account. However, in respect of Government employees, the rate of interest of 12 percent on Provident Fund contribution has been declared for the year 1986-87.

(d) Keeping in view the disparity, 50% of the amount standing at the credit of the employees in aided schools, is allowed to be deposited in fixed deposits thereby earning a higher rate of interest.

Assistance to Mahila Mandals in Karnataka

7488. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total financial assistance given to Mahila Mandals in Karnataka for their various schemes by the Central Social Welfare Board during 1985-86 ;

(b) whether the Central Social Welfare Board propose to issue application forms for the various schemes in regional languages besides English and Hindi to enable the various bodies in States to avail of the benefit of the schemes ; and

(c) if not, whether the Board would accept applications in the regional languages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Rs. 1,61,470/-.

(b) The State Boards are already issuing the forms in regional languages besides English and Hindi.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Augmentation of Capacity of Kuwano Pump Canal Scheme

7489. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has issued any directive for augmenting capacity of the Kuwano Pump Canal Scheme in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, details in this regard ;

(c) whether the Commission has also provided financial assistance for the completion of the said work ; and

(d) if so, the amount given for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Survey of B.G. Line Between Krishna Railway Station and Vikarabad Railway Station (AP)

7490. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for constructing broadgauge line between Krishna Railway Station in Mahboob Nagar district and Vikarabad Railway Station in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh has been completed ;

(b) whether the scheme has the advantages of reducing the distance between Hyderabad and Bangalore by about 80 kms ; and