

for assigning seniority to the Societies. However, draw for assigning sectors has already been held and handing over possession is likely to be completed by 31st July, 1991, depending upon the orders of the Court in the writ petitions.

#### **Family Ration Cards In Tamil Nadu**

839. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties faced by large number of persons who fail to get family ration cards in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) According to the information supplied by Government of Tamil Nadu, there are no difficulties faced by people in obtaining family ration cards. Central Government have not also received any complaints in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Shifting of Government/Public Undertakings, Offices outside Bombay**

840. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to shift some Government offices and offices of public sector undertakings from Bombay to nearby towns and sub capital Nagpur in order to avoid congestion in Bombay, the capital of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to shift any Central Government offices out of Bombay city. Public Sector Undertakings are competent to decide with approval of the concerned administrative Ministry the location of their offices.

#### **Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Sections**

841. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority propose to introduce any housing scheme for the economically weaker sections and low income groups;

(b) if so, when this scheme is likely to be started and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) It would not be desirable to start a new scheme before the existing backlog of registrants of earlier schemes is cleared.

[*English*]

#### **Poisonous Metal under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1964**

842. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presence of nickel in the

vegetable oil has not been characterised as a 'poisonous metal' in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1964; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH):** (a) and (b). Nickel has not been listed in the limits for poisonous metal under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, as according to the report of WHO Expert Committee, human intoxication with nickel due to dietary contamination has not been reported.

[*Translation*]

**Medical Facilities to the Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

**843. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the death toll of the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy is ever increasing;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued by Indian Council of Medical Research to provide proper medical facility to the victims of Gas Tragedy; if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that victims of Gas Tragedy are suffering the trauma of slow and painful death; and

(e) if so, the action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MIN-**

**ISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY):** (a) The Indian Council of Medical Research is collecting mortality data on a registered sample of 26382, 34964 and 18675 persons from severely, moderately and mildly affected areas total registered cohort of 80021 from affected area along with 15931 persons from unaffected area (control). From 1986, year-wise annual crude death rates are given in the statement below. The rates do not show any increase in deaths over a period of time. It may, however, be noted that death rate in severely affected area has been high every time in comparison to that in other areas.

(b) and (c). The Indian Council of Medical Research prepared a working manual, "The Health Problems of Bhopal Gas Victims Assessment and Management" in the year 1986, to facilitate the treatment of persons affected by the toxic gases. Based on the conclusion emerging from the studies this manual was updated in the year 1989.

(d) and (e). The observations made under long term epidemiological studies conducted by the Council reveal that the prevalence of symptomatic respiratory morbidity is still higher in affected area in comparison to control area. This finding has been strengthened by the observations made under clinical epidemiological studies. Smoking has been noticed as major cause for lung problems. Moreover, majority of deaths in affected area have been reported due to disorders of respiratory systems. In view of this, the Council had written to the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding anti-smoking campaign and helped to the Dean, Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal for conducting anti-smoking day.