

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Depending upon the demand, necessity, priority and resources available etc., the State Governments/local authorities concerned plan and construct roads, of which ring roads also form part.

(b) There is no scheme at present for giving Central Government assistance for ring roads in cities and towns.

(c) Does not arise.

Import on Foodgrains

5369. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import foodgrains during this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) and (b). Government have accepted the proposal of Government of Vietnam to repay about 44,980 tonnes of rice against the Food Loan of 1980, which is likely to be received during 1990-91. Besides this, there is at present no decision to import wheat and rice from anywhere.

[*Translation*]

SC/ST Beedi Workers in Tonk District (Rajasthan)

5370. SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL:
SHRI THAN SINGH JATAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of beedi workers in Tonk district, Rajasthan are Scheduled Castes and from minority communities;

(b) whether the prescribed minimum wages are being paid to them;

(c) whether they are being provided housing and other facilities also; and

(d) whether these workers are being exploited on the pretext of beedi selection, Jodi and leaves cutting and if so, the steps being taken by Government to protect them from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOURS AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. The estimated number of beedi workers in Tonk District is 30,000.

(b) According to the State Government of Rajasthan minimum wages are being paid to beedi workers in Tonk District.

(c) To extend medical, housing, educational, recreational and family welfare facilities to beedi workers and their families several welfare schemes under Beedi Workers Welfare Fund are being implemented in Tonk District also. For example, one Static Dispensary has been set up in the District. Total attendance in the year 1989-90 in the dispensary was 34,390. In the year 1989-90 an amount of Rs. 2,28,480/- was disbursed as scholarship to 719 awardees; an amount of Rs. 20,300/- was paid as financial assistance to 406 wards of beedi workers for purchase of school dresses and maternity benefit at the rate of Rs. 250/- each was paid to 76 female beedi workers.

(d) According to the Government of Rajasthan no complaint in this regard has so far been received from any Union.