

Pradesh and the number of workers died of this disease;

(b) whether it is due to silica dust on the workers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the installation of dust-pollution controlling equipment in these factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

1864. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have convened a meeting of employers in the beedi, glass and carpet industries, which employ child labour on largest scale;

(b) if so, the main purpose of this meeting;

(c) whether a similar meeting of State Government was also held recently;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held;

(e) whether any concrete proposals have been reached for eliminating the child labour in these sectors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main purpose of the meeting was to seek the support of employers in eliminating the practice of child labour.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The employers assured support to the govt. programmes for tackling the problem of child labour and endorsed the proposal for payment of uniform minimum wages to adults and children. Employers organisations further expressed their willingness to take up industry specific projects for the welfare of child labour.

NON-UTILISATION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE BY NCB

1865. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether UNDP has decided to withdraw \$ 20 million fund provided to Narcotic Control Bureau for modernisation, including purchase of helicopters, latest communication equipment and computers, due to non-utilisation of the fund during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of funds by the Narcotic Control Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir. The total assistance of US \$ 20 million under the UNDCP Project is not meant exclusively for the Narcotics Control Bureau. The Project does not also envisage purchase of helicopter(s). Substantial amount of the funds in the NCB related project have been utilised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

COFFEE BOARD

1866. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI AHITHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of Coffee Board has become too expensive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the steep hike in the prices of coffee in the recent months;

(d) if so, whether the small coffee growers have demanded higher price for their produce; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.