

[English]

Revision of Rural Sanitation Programme

3260. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has revised the Rural Sanitation Programme; and

(b) if so,, the response from the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the programme is implemented through the State/Union Territories, no response has been received directly by the Union Government from the beneficiaries. However, the State Governments of Orissa and Maharashtra have requested for extension of the subsidy for construction of sanitary latrines for persons above the poverty line also. As the revised guidelines of central rural sanitation programmes were introduced in March, 1993, it is not possible to make any changes within this short period without giving a fair trial for implementation of the new guidelines for a period of about two years.

Alleged Malpractices in Recruitment to Armed Forces

3261 MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "CAG flays Army Recruitment" appeared in the "Times of India" dated May 14, 1992;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to reorganise, streamline and improve the Recruiting Organisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to revert back to the system of sending 'Regimental Recruitment Parties' for recruitment;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of cases of 'touts' detected during 1992; and

(g) the details of the special arrangements made to eliminate 'touts'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (g) Government have seen the said news item. The refinement of the recruitment system is a continuous process. Important measures taken by the Government to eliminate instances of malpractice/irregularities in the recruitment of Army personnel are given in the enclosed statement.

There is no proposal to revert back to the system of sending 'Regimental Recruitment Parties' for recruitment.

During 1992, ten cases of 'touts' were detected.

STATEMENT

The following measures have been taken by the Government to eliminate the instances of malpractices/irregularities in the recruitment of Army personnel:—

- (i) With a view to eliminate the interference of touts/agents, an application system has been introduced for recruitment.
- (ii) Evaluation of answer books has been streamlined
- (iii) Detailed Qualitative Requirements for Officers, JCOs/ORs for posting to Recruitment Organisations have been laid down to ensure that only duly screened personnel are posted to such jobs. Staff with doubtful integrity are reverted back.
- (iv) Tenure of recruiting staff, both combatants and civilians, has been restricted to two years.
- (v) Screening of candidates is carried out by a Board of Officers with two independent members from the local formation/unit.
- (vi) In order to minimise malpractices in medical examination at the time of recruitment, a system of independent checks by a second medical officer has been instituted. Provision has also been made for appeals against the verdict of the Recruiting Medical Officer.

- (vii) Prompt action is being taken against touts/agents with the assistance of Civil Police.
- (viii) System of allocation/release of vacancies and recruitment procedures has been thoroughly revamped.

Prices of Allopathic Medicines

3262. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage rise in the prices of various allopathic medicines during the last three years;

(b) the approximate total value in rupees of the allopathic medicines being manufactured in India during 1990-91 and 1991-92 vis-a-vis the total value in rupees of allopathic medicines imported from abroad during these years;

(c) the total number of allopathic medicines produced indigenously; and

(d) the medicines on which Dunkel proposals in regard to intellectual property rights are likely to be applied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FAL-EIRO): (a) As per the whole-sale price index of Drugs & Medicines (Base—1981-82=100) there was an increase of 6.55% during 1990-91 and 6.82% during 1991-92.

(b) The total value of finished formulations produced in the country is estimated to be Rs. 3840 crores and Rs. 4800 crores in 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively. Imports of finished formulations are negligible.

(c) The number of finished formulations produced in the country in various dosage forms, strengths and pack-sizes is estimated to be about 50,000.

(d) According to Dunkel proposals, 'Product Patent' protection is applicable to only those pharmaceuticals which are patented after the coming into force of the TRIPS agreement.

Widening of Okhla Canal Bridge

3263. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Administration has taken up with the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department the question of widening the Okhla Canal Bridge and to provide strong railings alongside;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Government of N.C.T.D., the widening of Okhla Canal Bridge was taken up with U.P. Irrigation Deptt. An estimate amounting to Rs. 174 lacks has been received some time back from them for necessary sanction by Government of N.C.T.D. and deposit of funds with them. The necessary Administrative approval and expenditure sanction is awaited. The work will be executed by U.P. Irrigation Deptt. as Deposit Work.

(c) Approximately 12 months after deposit of funds.

Indian Trade Delegation to Myanmar

3264. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian trade delegation visited Myanmar recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any short-term and long-term trade agreements have been entered into with Myanmar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Indian delegation comprising both officials and businessmen visited Myanmar from March 10 to 14th, 1993. During the visit, the members of the delegation met Ministers and senior officials of the Myanmar Government, representatives of the Myanmar Chamber of