

Action for Food Production (AFPRO), New Delhi that over 75 million people living in rural areas in India do not have adequate water supply resulting in sickness and death; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). The Government is not aware of any fact disclosed by the Lutheran World Service (India) in collaboration with the AFPRO in regard to adequacy of drinking water supply in the country. However, according to information received from Ministry of Works and Housing in a survey conducted in 1972, 1.53 lakhs villages were categorised as problem villages i.e., villages which have no source of safe drinking water within a mile or above a depth of 50 feet, or have sources endemic to cholera and guinea worm. Out of these, 80,000 problem villages are expected to be covered by March, 1980. The target is to cover the remaining problem villages on a priority basis before the end of the 6th Plan period. The Central Government in the Ministry of Works and Housing gives 100 per cent grants-in-aid to the States/Union Territories in order to supplement their resources under Rural Water Supply Programme to enable the State Governments to accelerate the progress in order to achieve the target.

Collection of ESIS contribution

2074. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contributions towards Employees State Insurance Scheme is collected from the workers spread over in so many Government Undertakings which involves a lot of clerical work; and

(b) if so, whether this expenditure is commensurate with the labour involved in the collection of contribution?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM & CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the employers are required to collect contributions from employees and deposit them with the ESI Corporation alongwith their own contributions. There is a certain amount of clerical work involved, especially when the contributions are payable through stamps. The ESI Corporation is, however, gradually introducing the system of cash collection which will reduce the clerical work.

Visit of Nepali delegation to Haldia port

2075. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Government of Nepal visited the Haldia Port of West Bengal recently for the purpose of ascertaining the feasibility of constructing a general cargo berth with the financial assistance of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). In 1979, a Nepalese Government Delegation visited the Haldia Dock Complex to look for land for a Transit Warehouse for the goods imported/exported by the Government of Nepal. The discussions held on that occasion were in pursuance of the Protocol to the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal.

One Union in one Organisation

2076. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will continue to act upon its declared policy that one Union in one organisation will only be given cognisance;