

The proposals for 1987-88 have yet to be approved.

Assistance to Award-Winning Sportsmen

1445. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any survey regarding the present financial condition of the sportsmen who once brought many laurels to the country and were the recipients of gold medals and Arjuna and other prestigious awards ;

(b) if so, whether Government are satisfied with their lot ; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) :

(a) to (c) While no such survey has been made, Government recognise that sportspersons, who brought glory to the country in the past by their performance and who are now disabled or where they or their families are in indigent circumstances, require to be supported. In view of this, the Government have already set up the National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons which provides for financial assistance to such sportspersons or to their families in case the concerned sportsperson is no more.

Waiting Hall at Kharagpur Railway Station

1447. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the waiting hall near the old booking office, in between the two platforms at Kharagpur Railway Station in South Eastern Railway has since been closed down ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the much hardship the passengers have to face due to non-availability of waiting hall facility ; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct a new waiting hall for second class passengers near the new booking office ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Seminar on 'Women and Rural Development'

1448. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national seminar on 'Women and Rural Development' was held recently ; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps suggested for the development of women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

National AIDS Control Strategy Scheme

1449. SHRI JAGNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has submitted to the Planning Commission a Rs. 6 crore National AIDS Control Strategy Scheme' ; and

(b) if so, whether the clearance of the Commission has been obtained ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No formal communication has yet been received from the Planning Commission. However Rs. 50.00 lakhs have been kept earmarked for the programme during the year 1987-88.