

- iii) Five demonstration defluoridation plants have been set up in various States.
- iv) An action plan has been drawn up to instal 130 defluoridation plants in various States/Union Territories.

Achievement of Target by National Goitre Control Programme

583. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Goitre Control Programme has achieved the assigned target fully, if so, the details thereof ; and
- (b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) The National Goitre Control Programme envisages the control of goitre and other associated Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) through iodisation of the entire edible salt in the country in a phased manner to be completed by 1992. Against a target of 12.00 lakh tonnes of iodised salt during 1987-88, a quantity of 16.87 lakh tonnes of iodised salt has been produced and supplied to the endemic areas of the country. In addition, central assistance for establishment of Goitre Cell, health education and publicity on Goitre, surveys etc. is being provided to the States/Union Territories under the Programme.

- (b) Does not arise.

Scheme for Voluntary Retirement of Workers and Employees

584. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have devised a scheme for voluntary retirement of the workers and employees ; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : (a) and (b) There is no general scheme formulated by Government for the voluntary retirement for workers employed either in the depart-

mental undertakings under its direct control or in respect of those employed in the Central Public Sector Enterprises as a whole. However, individual Public Enterprises like Hindustan Steel Construction Limited (HSCL), the Food Corporation of India (FCI), The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) etc., have voluntary retirement schemes of their own with a view to reducing surplus labour.

Indo-UK Cooperation for Cancer

585. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether cancer is a major area for joint medical research undertaken by the Indian and British institutions to revolutionise its treatment in India ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the co-operation extended by Britain for the treatment of cancer in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) Cancer is one of the several areas of collaboration between India and UK for joint medical research.

(b) The Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad has received assistance to the extent of £ 456.400 including cost of equipment and training of personnel.

It is proposed to provide a new high dose rate Selection machine, the estimated cost of which is £170.960 to Mehdi Nawaty Jung Hospital, Hyderabad. The Cytology Research Centre under the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi proposes to undertake a project aiming at understanding the role of human papilloma virus in causation of cervical cancer. The British co-operation under this project will include transfer of technology of DNA hybridization techniques, human research development through short term training programme, equipments etc.

Introduction of more Trains on Sahebgunj Loopline

586 SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains running on the Sahebgunj loopline daily ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce some more trains on that line ;

(c) whether there is a need for improvement of train services etc. and to provide more amenities to the passengers on this line ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) 18 and 15 pairs of passenger carrying trains are running daily on Khana-Barharwa and Kiul-Barharwa sections of Sahibganj loop, respectively. In addition, 4 such trains run on weekly/triweekly/4 days a week basis.

(b) It is presently not feasible to introduce any more trains on this section due to severe line capacity constraints.

(c) and (d) Passenger amenities are provided/improved depending upon the relative requirements at the Stations and subject to availability of funds.

News-Item Captioned "Indian Workers Tale of Woes in Iraq"

587. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15 June, 1988 captioned "Indian workers' tale of woes in Iraq" wherein it has been stated that a group of 32 Indian workers find themselves trapped in a nightmarish situation ;

(b) if so, whether most of these workers have taken up the jobs of coolies, plumbers and helpers in various private organisations for their livelihood ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. All efforts are being made for repatriation of 32 workers. The matter is

being vigorously pursued with the Government of Iraq through Indian Mission Iraq for immediate repatriation of the workers.

Removal of Jhuggies from Paschim Vihar

588. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on 28th March, 1988 to Starred Question No. 486 regarding removal of jhuggies from Paschim Vihar and state :

(a) whether Government have adopted, as a matter of policy the principle that jhuggies would be removed as and when alternative sites become available ;

(b) if so, the reasons for removing shops and cancelling sites allotted by the DDA in March, 1988 without providing alternative sites ; and

(c) the time by which alternative sites are proposed to be allotted to the evictees and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) DDA has reported that alternative sites are offered before clearance to the jhuggi dwellers who have proof like Ration Card etc. of squatting on public land.

(b) 10 shops in Paschimpuri were constructed unauthorisedly by the allottee of Coal Depot on DDA's land and for such commercial recent encroachment, no alternative sites are being provided.

(c) The question does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Collection of Cess from Mine Owners of Bellery-Hospet Sector (Karnataka)

589. SHRI H.G RAMULU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Labour Welfare Department is collecting huge amounts under Labour Welfare Cess/Cell from the mine owners of Bellery-Hospet Sector in Karnataka State ;