

up work for provisions of an additional covered area of 14182 sq. mtrs. during the current financial year.

Tripartite meeting on public sector undertakings

**1824. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :
SHRI UTTAMBHAI H.**

PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand from the Trade Unions for convening of a tripartite meeting of public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) when a meeting is likely to be convened ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : (a) Some Trade Unions have urged Government to set up a standing Tripartite Committee on Public Sector Enterprises.

(b) Government have not decided to set up such a Committee.

(c) Does not arise.

Dieselisation of Inter City Express Train running in Gujarat

**1825. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :
SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL :**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests have been received for providing diesel engines to Inter-City Express Trains running in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, when the diesel engine is expected to be provided for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Requests have been received for Train No. 153/154 Rajkot-Ahmadabad Express. The train has since been dieselised w.e.f. 1.8.88.

Protein in infant food

1826. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have laid down norms regarding protein content in infant foods for the better health of the infant population in the country;

(b) whether baby food products marketed during 1987 and 1988 were subjected to laboratory tests to find out if they conformed to the limits prescribed; and

(c) if so, the names of the products which were found deficient and the action taken against the manufacturers of these products for not adhering to the prescribed standards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The standards for infant milk food laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 stipulates minimum requirements for content.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected from the States/Union Territories.

Fluorosis in Maharashtra

1827. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fluorosis which leads to bending of the bones and causes deformities is rampant, particularly among the tribals of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the disease;

(c) whether the disease is essentially a water borne disease;

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide germ free drinking water to the affected areas;

(e) whether any Central scheme has been undertaken under the Seventh Plan for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the target fixed thereunder and the target achieved so far with the reasons for shortfall, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) (c) (f). Fluorosis is known to be prevalent in certain areas of Maharashtra.

Under National Drinking Water Mission, a sub-Mission on 'Control of excess fluoride' has been taken up with the following activities :

- (i) A fluorosis Control Cell has been constituted in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The Control Cell is conducting fluorosis awareness camps in various States. So far eight such camps have been conducted in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) Technology packages for removal of excess fluoride and engineering packages for defluoridation plants have been developed.
- (iii) Five demonstration defluoridation plants have been set up in various States.
- (iv) An action plan has been drawn to instal 130 defluoridation plants in various States/Union Territories. Fluorosis occurs when the fluoride

content of water is above 1.5 ppm. The disease is not related to presence or absence of germs.

Growth rate in Maharashtra

1828. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the yearly growth rate of population in Maharashtra during the Seventh Plan has been monitored and if so, the year-wise growth rate and the areas where the growth rate has been found to be significant;

(b) whether any special measures are contemplated to control the growth rate in such areas ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The Natural Growth Rate of population is obtained as difference between birth and death rates as available from sample Registration System of Registrar General, India annually. The latest estimates of Natural Growth Rate for Maharashtra for the years 1985 and 1986 are 2.06% and 2.17% respectively. Since Sample Registration System provides estimates only at State level, the growth rates below State level are not available.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Decline in employment for women

1829 SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether jobs for women in jute industry, cotton textile industry, mines and quarries and agriculture sector are shrinking at an alarming rate as per data available with the employment exchange live registers :

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and