

have already been affected by a particular failure due to tube leakages;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the pressure of foreign suppliers of these plants this important stipulation on the quality of tubes was done away with as far as the safety practice is concerned; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN):** (a) Government is aware that the thermal power stations in West Bengal have been having forced outages due, among other reasons, to tube failures. While the tube failures in Santaldih have occurred 6 times during the year 1977-78, the number of such failures in the case of Bandel power station was 12 and in the case of Durgapur Projects Ltd. 3 during the same period.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Effective Functioning of Field Publicity in States**

8951. **SHRI G. BHUVARAHAN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken so far for the effective functioning of the field publicity in the States; and

(b) is there any proposal to form an Advisory Committee for better functioning of the Field Publicity Department?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI JAGBIR SINGH):** (a) A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Statement**

(1) A systematic planning for programmes and tours has been devised

to ensure arrangement for maximum number of programmes in rural and backward areas.

(2) A system of monitoring and evaluation of programme output has been evolved at two levels in the Directorate of Field Publicity and at the Regional Office and continuous guidance is being provided to the Field Officers based on this analysis.

(3) Norms for number of tour days and film programmes have been fixed on the basis of the budget allocations for TA and DA for the staff and petrol and other lubricants for the vehicles. Programme output is analysed to ensure that the norms are achieved.

(4) The Field Publicity Officers are deputed for in-service training at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in a phased manner.

(5) Arrangements have been made for on-the-spot surprise checks of the programmes by the Regional Officers of the Directorate of Field Publicity.

(6) Two large regions, viz., Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have been bifurcated for better administration of the Units.

(7) The administration of the Regional Offices has been strengthened by the appointment of Administrative Officers in the larger Regions and U.D.Cs. in all of them. This arrangement has enabled the Regional Officers to pay more attention to the planning and supervision of the programmes effectively.

(8) Inspection of the Regional Offices of the Directorate has been stepped up to ensure better administration and performance in programmes.

(9) The Field Officers of the Directorate are required to keep in constant touch with the District Officers so as to avoid duplication of work by the Central and State Field Units.

(10) Inter-Media Publicity Co-Ordination Committees have been constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in all States/Union Territories to ensure effective coordination in activities of the various Media Units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and of the Central and State publicity agencies.

**Improvement in working conditions of Scheduled Castes engaged in unclean occupations**

8952. SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have been given financial assistance to the State Governments under the Centrally sponsored scheme for Improvement in working and living conditions of those Scheduled Castes who are engaged in unclean occupations;

(b) if so, the details of the amount paid to each State during the last two years under the Scheme; and

(c) to what extent this fund has been utilised by these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANK LAL MANDAL): (a) to (c). There is no Centrally sponsored scheme under the Backward Classes Sector for providing financial assistance to the State Governments for improvement in the working and living conditions of those Scheduled Castes who are engaged in unclean occupations. However, some of the State Governments have got such programmes in their Backward Classes/General Sector Programmes of the State Plan where the Central assistance is available through bloc loans and block grants.

Ministry of Works & Housing, however, have taken up the programme of conversion of dry latrines into sanitary one since 1974-75 as a pilot project so as to improve the working conditions and at present 15 schemes are on in 9 States.

The information regarding amount released to nine State Governments during the year 1976-77 and 1977-78 is enclosed. The funds are likely to be utilised by the time the schemes are completed during 1978-79.

**POSITION OF THE CONVERSION OF DRY LATRINES PROGRAMME SHOWING RELEASES MADE TO THE STATES**

Sl. No.	State	Scheme	Funds released during	
			1976-77	1977-78
			(Rs. in lakhs)	
1.	Karnataka	Ranebanur	3.50	2.00
2.	Maharashtra	1. Lonawala	..	3.50
		2. Degloor	..	3.00
3.	Gujarat	1. Vallabh Vidyanagar	3.00	..
		2. Upleta Town	1.50	..
4.	Uttar Pradesh	Shikohabad	..	2.50
5.	Assam	Karimganj	..	2.00
6.	Orissa	Bhawanipatna	0.62	6.00
7.	Tamil Nadu	1. Thiruvarur	5.00	..
		2. Palani	5.00	2.50
		3. Labbaikudikadu	0.38	5.00
8.	Punjab	1. Kot Kapura	3.00	5.50
		2. Barnala	3.00	8.00
9.	West Bengal	Ranaghat	5.00	..
TOTAL			39.00	40.00