

to the sea, cost of construction, freedom from siltation, suitability from the fishing point of view and the long tradition of fish landing in this area the Sasson Dock site was selected for the location of a fishing harbour. Specific clearance from the Ministry of Defence was taken from the security point of view before this harbour project was sanctioned.

Provision of Employment to Blind

883. SHRI OSCAR FERNDANDES: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to provide employment to the blind, including Government jobs in higher categories to the well-qualified among them;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard through the Employment Exchanges which deal with the handicapped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) An exercise is being carried out to explore the possibilities of providing jobs in higher categories to the handicapped including blind persons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, at present.

Drinking Water Scarcity

884. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Districts in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat which are facing drinking water scarcity due to drought in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide drinking water in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A list is attached.

(b) On the basis of the Prime Minister's 12-Point Programme on Drought Management, all the resources of the States and the Centre and all possible measures, both long-term and short-term, have been taken up on a war footing to tackle the problem of drought.

The Prime Minister's 12-Point Programme lays emphasis on preparation of Contingency Plans for supply of water to the identified villages and advance action for arranging tankers, trucks, drums, diesel, etc. Further, the Central Government have mobilised rigs and made them available to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for boring and deepening of wells in the most seriously affected areas.

NAMES OF THE DISTRICTS IN THE STATES OF RAJASTHAN, MADHYA, PRADESH, UTTAR PRADESH AND GUJARAT, AFFECTED DUE TO DRAUGHT DURING 1979-80.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Bastar
2. Bilaspur
3. Balaghat
4. Bhopal
5. Betul
6. Bhind
7. Chindwara
8. Chhatarpur
9. Durg
10. Damoh
11. Datia
12. Dewas
13. Dhar