

Pension to Age Old Persons

1622. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the States have introduced pension to age-old persons, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the category of persons who are entitled to such pension;

(c) whether the scale of pension differs from State to State;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to issue guidelines for a uniform formula of pension; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Several State Governments have introduced general schemes of pensions for the destitute aged. The eligibility criteria and rate of the pension vary from State to State. Generally, however, destitute people above the age of 60 years are eligible to receive pension under these schemes. The Seventh Finance Commission has allowed adequate provision for each State for its forecast period 1979—84, to enable State Governments to pay Rs. 60 per person per month by way of old-age pension to approximately 0.1 per cent of the population on the basis of 1971 census. While several State Governments have introduced general schemes for pension to the destitute aged, it is up to others to consider such measures.

Failure to Deliver Exercise Books from Paper Quota

1623. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several manufacturers who have lifted their quota of white

printing paper for exercise books have failed to deliver the exercise books during January, 1979 and March, 1980;

(b) if so, whether Government have ordered an enquiry in Delhi and some cities in this regard; and

(c) the details of the prosecution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Reports have been received that some manufacturers have failed to deliver the prescribed number of exercise books to the State agencies.

(b) and (c). Government have already advised the State Governments to take penal action against the manufacturers who have failed to supply exercise books in time or in full. The Delhi Administration has reported initiating appropriate legal action against the defaulters under the Indian Penal Code and the Essential Commodities Act.

Drinking Water Points set up under the Minimum Needs Programme

1624. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported by Indian Express, Bombay, dated May 22, 1980, "Drinking water points set up under the minimum needs programme, which is largely intended for the rural poor; have gone more to the benefit of the rich"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). The News item is based on the quick evaluation study conducted by Planning Commission during 1978-79 and published in 1980. The study