

particular house to another on the point of bullet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the majority of people in the locality are opposed to such a shifting especially to the house where it is shifted now; and

(d) if so, whether Government desire to allot funds at the earliest to get construction of building of its own to help solve the problem for ever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) to (c) There is no sub-post office at Bonth in Balasore district, but there is one at Bant. This post office was functioning in a dilapidated thatched house. The staff union was pressing for its shift to a better accommodation which was rejected in January, 1981. The new building is only at a distance of one furlong from the previous place. The local population was divided equally on this issue. A section opposed the shifting into the new building and consequently the assistance of the District authorities was sought and obtained in shifting the post office to the new building on 14 February, 1981.

(d) A site has been selected for the construction of departmental building for the Bant sub-post office and necessary action is being taken to acquire the site.

Air Pollution around talcher thermal power station

5520. SHRI NARAYAN SAHU: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people within 20 kms. radius around Talcher Thermal Station are miserably suffering due to dust thrown out of the plant, day in and day out; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to check pollution and when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Reduction in Prices of fertilizer

5521. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand from the farmers for reduction in the prices of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (KUMARI KAMALA KUMARI): (a) Some representations for reduction of existing prices of fertilisers, have been received.

(b) It has not been possible to reduce the existing prices of fertilisers. However, following steps have the prices of petroleum products, other raw materials, fertiliser prices in the international market and ocean freight. To keep the fertiliser prices at reasonable level, the Government provides sizeable subsidy on fertilisers. However, following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure economic return to the farmers for fertiliser application:—

(i) The existing prices of fertilisers are taken into account for fixing support prices of crops.

(ii) Delivery of fertiliser up to Block Headquarters instead of up to nearest rail head has been decided.

(iii) Short-term credit to the farmers as well as to the States/Union Territories has been increased.

(iv) Subsidy on fertilisers to small and marginal farmers in drought affected areas was continued during 1980-81.

Child Marriages

5522. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EDU-