

(b) the number of houses completely collapsed or damaged; and

(c) the steps, if any, being taken to render financial help, in the shape of loan etc. to persons who were affected?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) Rupees four thousand in old Jubbal; rupees three thousand in Saskir, Tehsil Jubbal; and rupees sixty-six thousand in Dalong, Tehsil Rampur.

(b) Nine houses collapsed and several damaged in the aforesaid villages.

(c) A sum of rupees nine hundred, at the rate of rupees one hundred each to the nine affected families and timber free of cost was sanctioned as gratuitous relief. Timber free of cost was also provided to three other families.

"Gharats" in Himachal Pradesh

2449. { Shri S. N. Ramaul;
Shri M. L. Dwivedi;

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what is the system of levy on Gharats (water flour mills) in district Sirmur, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether they are leased out on a certain fixed term of time and amount of levy uniformly or it varies according to locality or circumstances;

(c) whether the lessees are charged more than the amount fixed by the lease-deed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) The levy on Gharats in district Sirmur is governed by the Sirmur Water Mills (Gharats) Regulations, 2002 BK.

(b) Under the aforesaid Regulations, the Grants are auctioned in open by the Tehsildars to the highest bidder

and the latter is granted a patta which remains operative till the next settlement. Since the Gharats are auctioned, the levy varies from Gharat to Gharat.

(c) and (d). Additional amount known as Local Rate and Cesses equal to 25 per cent. is charged on the sale value annually from the lessees. Of this, 20 per cent. is charged as Local Rate under section 107 of the Himachal Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1952 and 5 per cent. as Village Officers Cess, which is payable to the lambardar as collection charges.

Fees in Delhi Schools

2450. { Shri Vajpayee;
Shri Assar;

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that double the rate of fees is being charged from such of the students studying in the recognised schools in New Delhi whose parents are drawing Rs. 5,000 and above annually;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to raise this limit keeping in view the high cost of living?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Only a higher rate of fee is charged from students whose parents' income is more than Rs. 5,000 per annum but the rate is not double of the rate charged from students whose parents' income is less than Rs. 5,000. A lower rate of fee has been prescribed for the latter category on account of the low income of their parents.

(c) The question of either prescribing a uniform rate of fees for all or for further raising the present limit of Rs. 5,000 is under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.