

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the companies, registered under Companies Act, registered societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both Governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs.3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs.1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs.1201 to Rs.2500/-.

(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participations) Act, 1995". The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally handicapped persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide in additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment project.

[Translation]

Child Labour

2440. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the data pertaining to child labour have not been released according to census in 1991 so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which child labour welfare is attended to in the absence of said data at present; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) and (b). The Office of Registrar General of India has informed that data pertaining to child labour as per 1991 census is under processing.

(c) and (d). In order to implement the programme for elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations, child labour endemic districts were identified on the basis of 1981 census. Based on initial identification of child labour working in hazardous occupations, 76 child labour projects have been sanctioned so far to cover over 1.5 lakh children through special schools where they are provided with basic

welfare inputs like non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend etc. In addition, funds have been released to 123 districts for conducting comprehensive survey on child labour.

Supply of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

2441. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to other States the Union Government provide less quantity of wheat, rice and sugar to Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that supply of these commodities is made arbitrarily and not on the basis of census of 1991; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

I. Wheat and Rice

(a) to (d). Wheat and rice are allocated to the States/UTs. including Bihar on month to month basis according to the local availability, production, relative need, offtake trend and other related matters. The quantity of wheat and rice allotted to States/UTs. is supplemental in nature and is not meant for meeting the entire need of any State/UT. In respect of Bihar, the quantity of wheat and rice lifted by the State Government has been much less than the quantity allotted.

II. Sugar

(a) to (d). Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allocation of levy sugar to States/UTs. is being made on a uniform norm of ensuring 425 gms per capita monthly availability as per 1991 census effective from 1.1.1996. Based on this, the monthly levy sugar quota of Bihar is 36,707 tonnes.

[English]

New Telephone Exchanges in Coochbehar

2442. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges and telephone exchanges with STD facility set up so far in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any requests for opening of new telephone exchanges and telephone exchanges with STD facility;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of exchanges likely to be set up during 1996-97, category-wise, location-wise?