

(c) the steps Government propose to take to punish the Tea garden managements for defying the law and directive of the Labour Ministry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVINDA VERMA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 and the State Rules framed thereunder are enforced by the State Governments. Statutory minimum wages under the Minimum Act, 1948 in respect of employment in plantations are also fixed by the State Governments.

MASS EDUCATION MEDIA DIVISION OF FAMILY PLANNING

3168. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all State Governments are following a uniform pattern of staffing and expenditure in the Mass Education Media Division of Family Planning which is financed entirely by Central subsidies as suggested by the Union Health Ministry last year on the basis of the recommendations of Central and State Media Officers held at Bangalore in May;

(b) whether any complaints as regards wasteful expenditure and misuse of funds allocated for the purpose particularly in the Song and Drama Divisions of MEM organisations of Family Planning of various State Governments, as a result of their departure from the approved pattern suggested by the Union Health Ministry, came to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, the names of the defaulting States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI KONDAJJI BASAPPA) : (a) The meeting at Bangalore included representatives of State Governments only from the southern region. No recommendations were made in that meeting regarding

the pattern of staffing in the Mass Education and Media Division. However, separately, a pattern for staffing and expenditure for family planning mass education and media activities had been laid down by the Centre and communicated to the States. Some amount of flexibility is allowed to the States to adjust their activities to local needs. With regard to recommendations of other matters made at the meeting in Bangalore, the minutes had been circulated to the States and some are reported to have initiated necessary action in the light of suggestions made at that meeting.

(b) and (c). There are no separate Song & Drama Divisions in the ME&M DIVISION in the State Family Planning Bureaux. One complaint has been received in respect of West Bengal linking the wastefulness of expenditure with the departure from the approved pattern. The complaint is being looked into.

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS PENDING IN REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICE, MADRAS

3169. SHRI C. H. MOHAMMED KOYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending in Regional Passport Office, Madras till February 1st this year;

(b) whether the Passport Officer has asked for more staff to dispose of the pending applications; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction additional staff in order to redress the grievances of the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) 50641 as on 1st February, 1974.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Additional staff on temporary basis has already been provided and we are in the process of sanctioning additional staff on permanent basis.