

information on the development plans of Pickett and the funds earmarked for this purpose by the Government of India was provided in reply to Unstarred Question No. 3239 in the Lok Sabha on the 22nd August, 1974. The attention of the Hon'ble Members is invited to the answers to that question.

Improvement in Welfare of Labourers in Gujarat

1480 SHRI P M MEHTA Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether after imposition of President's rule in the State of Gujarat, the welfare of the labourers in the State has not improved,

(b) whether there is discontentment in the labour force in the State and

(c) whether his Ministry is considering to send any team of experts to help the labour force in the State for their improvement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA). (a) According to the information obtained from the Government of Gujarat, the welfare of labourers in Gujarat has improved during the President's rule. The following measures have been taken by that Government:—

(i) Amendment Act regarding Tripartite Contributions for welfare of labourers has been brought into force with effect from 30-1-1974 and its first instalment for the period ending on 30-3-1974 has been fully recovered from employers and employees.

(ii) Two more cinema units have been started during the last six months and there were 134 shows by which six lakh workers were benefited.

(iii) Two sub-centres of Shishu Vihars have been started and

age for admission has been extended from 3 to 12 years.

(iv) Number of Balvadis has been increased from 19 to 40

(v) Grant-in-aid to Shishu Mandirs and Balvadis has been substantially increased

(vi) There was All Gujarat Works Garba Competition in November, 1974 and participants of first ten garbas have been given prizes for the first time worth Rs 6000 to Rs 8000 by obtaining donations from employers

(b) Not to our knowledge, Sir

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry at present

Central Road Board

1487. SHRI G Y. KRISHNAN Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether any proposal was approved by the Planning Commission to set up a Central Road Board for construction of Roads in the country, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme for Naval Research Development and Laboratories

1488 SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any scheme for the Naval Research Development Laboratories during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?