

Opening of Centres for Mentally Retarded Persons,

3578. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the mentally retarded persons in the country;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to tender advice and guidance to all who need it; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to open centres and workshops to help the mentally retarded persons in the country and the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Though no reliable data is available, the number of mentally retarded children is, roughly estimated at 20 lakh.

(b) In addition to assisting voluntary organisations in the various schemes for the rehabilitation of the retarded, there is a proposal to set up a national institute for the mentally retarded in New Delhi in the Fifth Plan. The functions of this institute will include training of teachers and developing techniques to counsel parents.

(c) The Department of Social Welfare has launched a Scheme under which financial assistance for setting up sheltered workshop employing various categories of handicapped persons including the mentally retarded is available to the established voluntary organisations.

Setting up National Institute for Mentally Retarded persons

3579. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Govern-

ment to set up a National Institute for Mentally Retarded persons in the country;

(b) if so, the location of the Institute and its capacity for boarding and lodging of the mentally retarded persons; and

(c) the time by which the Institute would start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) In the Draft Fifth Plan, there is a proposal to set up a National Institute for the Mentally Retarded.

(b) The location may be New Delhi and the details are being worked out.

(c) It is proposed for 1975-76.

West Bengal State Cooperative Bank

3580. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal State Cooperative Bank is facing resource gap;

(b) if so, whether the State Cooperative Bank approached the Reserve Bank of India for the purpose;

(c) if so, the amount of actual gap faced by the West Bengal Cooperative Bank; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to help the said Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (d). Necessary materials are being collected and the required information will be placed before the House as soon as possible.