

Sinking of Boats

1686. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of boat sinking in inland waterways transport in Indian rivers have been reported during the last four months; and

(b) the number of passengers who lost their lives?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The required information has been called for from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of Sabha as soon as it is received.

Scarcity of Drinking Water in Andhra Pradesh

1687. Shri Venkatasubbajah: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale drinking water scarcity is prevailing in most of the villages of Alur, Pattikonda and Dronachalam Taluks of Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any representations have been made by the people of this area to extend National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme; and

(c) if so, what Government propose to do in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) Scarcity of drinking water is being experienced in a number of villages of Alur and Dronachalam taluks and in some of the villages of Pattikonda taluk of Kurnool District.

(b) The President, Alur Panchayat Samiti and the Secretary, Zilla Parishad, Kurnool, have made representations to the State Government in the matter.

(c) Pattikonda Taluk of Kurnool is already covered under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme and water supply schemes for

67 villages out of 97 villages have been completed. The work in the remaining villages is in progress. In so far as Alur and Dronachalam Taluks are concerned, the State Government have reported that the Zilla Parishad and the Panchayat Samiti concerned would have to consider the question of supplying water to individual villages under the Local Development Works programme. In the meantime, the Revenue Department and the Zilla Parishad are making efforts to supply drinking water to the villages as a temporary measure.

Harinagar Sugar Factory

1688. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel of three persons was appointed by Government to make enquiry against Harinagar sugar factory located in the district of Champaran (Bihar);

(b) if so, what are the charges against the management of the Harinagar Sugar Factory;

(c) who made the charges;

(d) Government's reaction to the report of panel of enquiry; and

(e) the substance of the panel's report?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri Thomas): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. This enquiry has been ordered as in the opinion of the Central Government, the undertaking is being managed in a manner highly detrimental to public interest.

(d) and (e). The Panel has yet to undertake the enquiry and submit its report.

Railway Line in Malabar Area of Kerala State

1689. Shri Koya: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new railway lines started in Malabar area of Kerala State since independence;