

Central Government to grant help to the States to enable them to give adequate dearness allowance to the State employees to compensate the rise in the cost of living in the recent period;

(b) whether the matter was also recently discussed by the Chief Ministers with him; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the outcome of the discussions?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir

(c) It has not been possible for the Centre to give any assurance of assistance to the States because the cost of State administration has to be paid for by the State Governments themselves who have to run their own administration and establishment.

Narmada Valley Project

288. Shri Virendra Kumar Shah:
Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri D. N. Patodia:
Sari Manibhai J. Patel:
Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discussion between the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat about the Narmada Valley Project; and

(b) if so, the result thereof and the attitude of the Central Government to the matter?

The Minister of Irrigation & Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

'No-Baby' Year

289. Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Swell:
Dr. Karni Singh:

Shri Bhar Singh:
Shrimati Nirlep Kaur:
Shri Barrow:
Shri Kolai Birua:
Shri B. S. Sharma:
Shri Onkar Lal Berua:
Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
Shri N. R. Laskar:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has proposed a holiday on the birth of children in the country for a year or so; and

(b) if so, the practical measures Government propose to help people to observe this holiday?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning: (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, the Union Minister of Health and Family Planning has appealed to the newly weds not to have babies for atleast a year or so.

(b) The practical measures available to such couples include (i) use of conventional contraceptives and (ii) I.U.C.D.—for which free or highly subsidized supplies and free services have been made available by Government.

Supreme Court Judgment on Promotion of Income-Tax Officers

290. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Supreme Court's judgment declaring promotion of Income-Tax Department Officers from lower ranks in excess of the number laid down in the rules illegal;

(b) the effect of this on the claim of direct recruits;

(c) its effect on the legality of the order passed by the illegal promotee officers in the Income-Tax Department; and