

- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Union Government has agreed in principle to provide subsidy on matching basis to the Government of NCT of Delhi for distribution of onions at a subsidised rate.

(c) the State Government of Maharashtra distributed onions through public distribution outlets in the State.

(d) to (h) In the meeting of Chief Ministers convened by Prime Minister on 27.11.98, States/U.T.s had requested for financial assistance to distribute essential commodities including onion through PDS. It has, therefore, been decided in the meeting that in the event of abnormal increase in the prices of any perishable essential commodities, State Governments/UT Administrations would undertake market intervention operations for distribution of these commodities at reasonable prices till the situation reverts to normalcy. To facilitate such market intervention, Central Government would provide necessary funds on matching basis. For distribution of such commodities, States/U.T.s will use the existing mechanisms of PDS.

Translation]

Engagement of Labour in Stone Quarries

3842. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers engaged in stone quarrying industry in Bihar do not have provident fund and medical facilities;

(b) whether silicosis and TB diseases are found in several workers engaged in stone quarrying industry; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide PF and medical facilities to them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The application of the provisions of Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 was extended to stone quarries producing stone chips, stone sets, stone boulders and ballasts employing twenty or more persons *vide* notification issued by the Central Government on 28th January, 1997.

Stone quarry owner's Association of Pakur has a dispensary located in mining area to provide medical facilities to mine workers. There are about 200 small permit quarries engaging about 15 to 20 persons each. First-Aid Stations as required under Rule 44 of the Mines Rules, 1955, have been provided in about 160 of the mines.

(b) and (c) No case of silicosis to the workers engaged in stone quarries has been reported to the Directorate General of Mines Safety so far. Tuberculosis is not a noticeable disease under Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952. All coverable establishments engaged in stone quarry industries in Pakur and Sahibganj district have been covered under the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Act, 1952 and its eligible employees are getting the provident fund benefits.

[English]

Hazardous Industries

3843. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hazardous industries in Jamnagar and other districts in Gujarat;

(b) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to save the lives of the labourers;

(c) the number of labourers and staff affected due to hazardous industries during the last three years; and

(d) the facilities and compensation given to labourers in this connection during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Health Centres

3844. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the Ancillary Health System in the country;

(b) the number of proposed primary health centres and community health centres that are likely to be set up in various states during the Ninth Five Year Plan;