

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Government response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) In 1985, on the basis of a detailed survey, the State Government had declared 36 wards of Bhopal as gas affected area. In studies conducted, based on mortality and morbidity figures, the ICMR sub-categorised the 36 wards as severely affected, moderately affected and mildly affected. Persons affected by the gas in the remaining twenty wards are also eligible to file claims and get compensation. Representations have been received for declaring the remaining 20 wards also as gas leak affected. The matter of inclusion of additional wards was examined in consultation with the State Government and it was decided that this will not be pursued further.

Mining School

2971. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Dhanbad's mining school losing its sheen" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 3, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the observations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report that 70 students have opted out of Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad is factually incorrect. Only 22 students have withdrawn from the School looking for better specialisation in other Institutions which is a common phenomenon. The General Council of the School has already deliberated upon the matter

and decided to make necessary improvements to the facilities in new branches.

Wheat Scandal in Super Bazar

2972. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Cooperative Registrar has since submitted any report on the wheat scandal in the Super Bazar; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies had submitted an Enquiry Report regarding wheat deal by the Super Bazar in the month of June, 97. This Report was forwarded to the Super Bazar for taking necessary action and submission of compliance report to the Central Registrar. On the basis of comments furnished by the Super Bazar, the Central Registrar had issued certain directions for compliance to the Super Bazar. The Super Bazar has reported the compliance of the directions so issued by the Central Registrar.

Beggars

2973. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beggars, child beggars and children used for begging is increasing day by day in the country, men, women and children, separately;

(b) whether this condition of the children falls under exploitation of children;

(c) if so, the rate of increase in begging during each of the last three years, till-date;