

3. The Government had set up a Commission of Inquiry on 11.10.1997 under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1952 to investigate into the above fire accident etc. The Commission was to submit its report within a period of 3 months which period was extended by 2 months. But despite extensions, the Commission could not complete its work and had been allowed to cease to function from March 1998. A fresh Commission of Inquiry is being set up to complete the investigations.

4. Further action will depend upon the report of the Inquiry Commission.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Rajbhar Caste in the List of Scheduled Castes

1063. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded a proposal to Union Government for inclusion of 'Rajbhar' caste in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been received for inclusion of Rajbhar community in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(c) The proposal is being considered alongwith all such cases in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Opening of Hospitals/Dispensaries

1064. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some hospitals/dispensaries have been opened in Maharashtra with the World Bank assistance during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government to open some more hospitals/dispensaries with World Bank assistance in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A project proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra under the State Health System Development Project has been posed to the World Bank for assistance. Such State Projects are formulated through detailed discussions with the World Bank. Past experience shows that they take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the Design and Formulation of the Project by the State. The State Authorities are kept fully involved in the discussions with the Representatives of the World Bank, at each stage. Hence, it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the Project at this juncture.

[Translation]

Blackmarketing of Food-Items

1065. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the blackmarketing of food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of blackmarketing reported in the country during each of the last three years and upto May, 1998, State wise;

(d) the number of persons punished and the number of cases lying pending so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 (P.B. Act) is in force which provides for detention in certain cases for the purpose of prevention of blackmarketing in respect of all essential commodities including food items.