

[Translation]

Increase in Ration Quota

964. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the quota of ration in rural region of Uttar Pradesh on the basis of their population;

(b) if so, the details of action plan under consideration of the Government;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce uniform distribution system as prevailing in cities;

(d) if so, the time by which such system is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (e). The Central Government makes bulk allocations of six key essential commodities viz. rice, wheat, sugar, soft/CIL Coke, imported edible oil and kerosene oil to States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The allocations are being made on the basis of post demand, offtake trends, relative need and other relevant factors. The operational responsibility for implementing the PDS including decisions on inter-regional allocation, the type of distribution system etc. within the States/UT vests with them.

[English]

Steel Plant in Private Sector

965. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued licences for setting up steel plants in private sector;

(b) if so, the names and other details of the private sector companies whom such licences have been given;

(c) the stage of implementation of such steel plants at present; and

(d) the time by which the said plants are expected to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Under the New Industrial Policy announced in July 1991, 'Iron & Steel' industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, except for certain locational restrictions. In terms of this policy, approval of the Union Government for Industrial Licence is required only if the project is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the Standard urban area limits of a city having a population of more

than 10 lakhs according to the 1991 census, and this location is not within areas designated as 'industrial area' by State Government before July 25, 1991.

While no industrial licence has been issued for setting up of steel plants under this policy, however, one letter of intent has been issued in February 1995 to M/s. Progressive Steels (India) Ltd., for setting up of Steel plant in private sector for manufacture of mild steel ingots and alloy steel castings for a capacity of 28,000 tonnes per annum at Digha Ghat, District Patna, Bihar. As per the available information this company has already installed production facilities and is likely to commence production by the first week of August 1996.

Child Beggars

966. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of child-beggars in the country at present;

(b) whether the number of child-beggars in major cities and around religious places, places of cultural and historical importance has increased recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the law on the subject is being enforced; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per 1981 Census the number of Child Beggars was estimated at 70,756. The figures of 1991 Census are not available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Child beggars are dealt with under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (Section 2 (L) (i) which has been enforced by all the States and Union Territories except Jammu & Kashmir. 16 State Governments and 2 Union Territory Administrations have also enacted and implemented their Anti-Beggary Laws. Government of India is pursuing the remaining States/UTs for early enactment of the Anti-Beggary Laws.

Government of India is implementing a Scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment since 1986-87 for neglected children, which includes child beggars. Under the Scheme grants of Rs. 18.06 lakhs and Rs. 25.00 lakh are provided for construction of Observation Homes and Juvenile Homes, Special Homes respectively. Grants are also provided for upgradation of existing institutions. It also envisages grants for maintenance of inmates @ Rs. 300 per child per month, contingency of Rs. 10 per child per month and for bedding @ Rs. 100 per child per annum. The