

be determined on considerations of viability and tie up of the funding arrangements.

[English]

Irregularities in Nehru Memorial Museum

3147. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Commission has received any representation regarding irregularities in the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a representation of Senior Technical Assistant of Nehru Memorial Museum & Library was received in the National Commission for SCs/STs regarding chargesheet issued to him on his misbehaviour and stopping his promotion. The representation is being examined by the Department of Culture. The Senior Technical Assistant has not been deprived of his promotion.

[Translation]

Relaxations to Handicapped Persons

3148. SHRI VISHVESHVAR BHAGAT :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of handicapped persons in the country State-wise;

(b) whether some relaxations in the qualifications have been provided to the handicapped persons in the country and the criteria fixed for Central and the State Governments services;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have considered or proposed to consider to provide pension/assistance to the totally disabled persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) As per the latest Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991, about 16.15 million persons in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotor

disabilities. Another Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 for persons with Delayed Mental Development between 1-14 age group estimates that about 3% of the total population has delayed mental development.

(b) and (c) There is no relaxation in educational qualifications for physically handicapped for appointment in Services under the Central and State Government as per the available information.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has no proposal to launch a pension scheme for the disabled at present. A large number of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have their own pension schemes for the disabled.

Assistance being given to the disabled persons under various schemes is indicated in the Statement attached.

Statement

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. Financial support is given upto 90% of the total project cost for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for projects like vocational training centre, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment & Development of Special Schools

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs upto 90% for establishment and upgradation of Special Schools in four major disabilities— orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation.

(4) *Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons.*

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) *National Institutes*

In order to effectively deal with the Multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These Institutes are apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their area of disability:—

- (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- (ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.
- (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.
- (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

- (i) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- (ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) *Employment*

- (i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:—

- (a) blindness or low vision;
- (b) hearing impairment; and
- (c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

In the post identified for each disability, 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. In pursuance of this provision, extension of 3% reservation in Group 'A' & 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons—1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's Circular No. 36035/16/91-Estt. (SCT) dated 18.2.97.

- (ii) 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped person in finding suitable employment.
- (iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.
- (iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:
 - (a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments, UTs;
 - (b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at Concessional Rates of Interest;
 - (c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;
 - (d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol pumps, Kerosene depots etc.

(7) *Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase fitting of Aids/Appliances*

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physically, social and psychological rehabilitation. The Scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both Governmental and non-Governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600 are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200 and 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201 to Rs. 2500.

- (8) Government of India have recently enacted 'The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.' The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment, non-discrimination etc., for disabled persons including mentally handicapped persons.
- (9) A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

[English]

Families below Poverty Line

3149. SHRI R.B. RAI :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable variance in the number of families Below Poverty Line (BPL) as anticipated by the Ministry and the States for implementing Targeted Public Distribution Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that ceiling of 60.45 lakh BPL families imposed by the Union Government for Maharashtra is too inadequate;

(d) whether the Government also propose to review the same particularly for hilly and backward areas of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) the manner in which the Government expect the States to cater to the needs of BPL families in excess of estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Government of India have adopted the estimates of population Below Poverty Line (BPL) arrived at by the methodology of an Expert Group on "Estimation of proportion and number of poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala. According to the Planning

Commission, the Expert Group methodology gives "poverty estimates closest to ground reality." There is considerable difference in the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population estimated by several State Governments including Maharashtra and the estimates given by the Expert group.

(b) The State-wise estimates of percentage of poor made by the Expert Group are based on a uniform methodology from the quinquennial National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure. The consumer expenditure survey is carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) of the Deptt. of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, all over India in a scientific manner. On the other hand the States do not follow a uniform approach in household survey. The Survey conducted by State Governments are suspected to have an upward bias in the estimation of poor families because survey is conducted with specific purpose of identifying families for selection of beneficiaries in anti-poverty programme.

(c) As per the estimates based on the Expert Group methodology the households Below Poverty Line (BPL) in Maharashtra are 60.45 lakhs. These estimates are applied to all States and UTs.

(d) and (e) States are free to issue more foodgrains or issue foodgrains at lower prices provided the additional required quantum of foodgrains and funds are made available from their own resources. Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc. are doing so.

[Translation]

Announcement for Earthquake Victims

3150. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in the Press Conference in Jabalpur on June 17, 1997 that a meeting would be hold next day in Delhi to decide ways and means to provide relief to the earthquake victims;

(b) if so, whether the said meeting was held, and the decisions taken therein; and

(c) if not, the time by which the proposed meeting is likely to be held for giving relief to the earthquake victims of Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) During his visit to the earthquake affected areas of Madhya Pradesh on June 17, 1997, Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced that the meeting of the National Calamity