

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Retention price-cum-Subsidy Scheme is being reviewed once in three years. The reviews for the 6th Pricing Period starting from 1st April, 1991 onwards is in progress and will be completed shortly. Necessary changes in policy, if any, will be made after completion of the on-going exercise in this regard.

[*Translation*]

#### Welfare of Child Labourers in Bidi Industries

1339. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make provisions for an insurance of Rs. 50, 000 by the bidi manufacturers for the child labour engaged in bidi industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI  
PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR); (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Development of Desert of Rajasthan

1340. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have aware that the desert of the United Arab Emirates is being developed into green pastures and cultivable land;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop the desert of Rajasthan by adopting the techniques similar to those adopted for development of UAE desert; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Desert Development Programme, a Central Sector Scheme, is already being implemented in Rajasthan with the basic objective of controlling desertification and achieving ecological balance in the long run. These objectives are sought to be achieved through adoption of low cost indigenous technologies in the areas of afforestation with special emphasis on sand-dune stabilisation, and shelter belt plantation grass-land development. The Central arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) at Jodhpur has also been instrumental in the upgradation of these local technologies as well as in the development of new technologies for desert development. Adoption of technologies from outside is not presently being considered under this Programme.

[*English*]

#### Loss Making Public-Sector Units

1341. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:  
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR  
PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to write off losses of sick public sector units in case the workers of these units form cooperatives to run these units;

(b) if so, the details of the public sector units proposed to be handed over to workers' co-operatives;

(c) whether the Government have also agreed to provide all other necessary assis-

tance and cooperation to run such sick units by workers' co-operatives;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the terms of transfer of management to workers' cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNDGON): (a) to (e). Some trade unions have suggested the setting up of workers' cooperatives during the meeting of special Tripartite Committee held on 20-1-1992. Government is prepared to consider viable proposals for running sick PSUs through workers' cooperatives where the workers were willing. However, the details in this regard have to be worked out based on specific proposals from workers' co-operatives company-wise.

#### Linking of Villages with Roads

1342. DR. ASIM BALA:  
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages, state-wise,

that have been connected with Government or private bus routes;

(b) the number of villages in the country having pucca roads and rail or bus link with in 2 km area; and

(c) the total amount allotted and spent for construction of rural-road during Seventh Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b). Connecting of villages with Government and private bus routes and railway points, inter-alia, involves construction of rural roads and operation of Government and private buses on them. These are State subjects. Funds for construction of rural roads are provided in the State Plans under Minimum Needs Programme. Government of India do not maintain State-wise information on this subject.

(c) A Statement giving State-wise outlay and expenditure on construction of rural roads under the Minimum Needs Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan is annexed.

#### STATEMENT

Sl. No.	State	Seventh Plan Outlay	Seventh Plan Expenditure
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24.00	24.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	26.00
3.	Assam	42.00	39.31
4.	Bihar	175.00	188.23
5.	Goa	0.35	0.88
6.	Gujarat	150.00	28.80