

effectiveness as bacteria and other microbes develop resistance to them; and

(b) if so, the effective measures being taken to fight the ten biggest killer infectious diseases in the country to ensure that its socio-economic development is not crippled by the burden of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Drug resistance in most drugs used in the treatment of infectious diseases is attributed to indiscriminate use of antibiotics.

(b) In the National Programmes on Control on diseases proper combination of drugs, dosage/duration of treatment are prescribed for effective control of the major communicable diseases.

Mother and Child Care Facilities

1240. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have shifted from demographic targets to mother and child care facilities;

(b) whether this shift has brought about any change in the attitude of those opposed to family planning on grounds of orthodoxy and rigidity in views; and

(c) if so, the what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The system of setting contraceptive targets from the top has been replaced by a system of decentralised planning at the Primary Health Centre level. The Primary Health Centre level planning will take into account the needs of the community and is expected to lead to improvement in quality of services as well as greater acceptance by the people.

Cochin Port Containers Strike

1241. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of Cochin Port containers strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The blockade of containers moving to and from Cochin Port with effect from 25th June, 1996 by Cochin Port Labour Union was to protest against non-usage of private labour pools by a private Container Freight Station viz. Asian Terminals. Other trade unions have

also objected to the private CFS engaging outside workers to work in the Container Freight Station.

(c) Consequent to a meeting held by the Port Trust on 26.6.96 with the representatives of all concerned unions, steamer agents, etc., the blockade has been lifted.

[Translation]

Linking of Roads

1242. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to link the dense populated rural areas of National Capital Territory of Delhi with National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be taken up for implementation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Constitutionally, the Government of India is responsible for maintenance and development of National Highways in the country. All roads other than National Highways are primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The proposed roads are State roads and responsibility lies with the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[English]

Modernisation of Jetties

1243. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme for the modernisation of jetties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has implemented this scheme from 1991;

(d) whether the Union Government had given 50 percent of the total amount spent; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under this scheme Government of India provides loan assistance to State Governments for implementation of various IWT Schemes including Modernisation of Jetties

(c) The scheme of the Kerala Government for modernisation of 55 passenger jetties was sanctioned by the Government of India in January, 1993. As per the latest progress report furnished by the State Government of Kerala, out of the 55 jetties sanctioned for modernisation, 37 "C" type and 3 "B" type jetties have been completed so far

(d) and (e). The funds released by the Central Government in this regard are based on the sanctioned amounts.

National Barrage Projects

1244. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for declaring any Barrage project as a National Project;

(b) the names of projects declared as National projects by the Government during the last three years. State-wise;

(c) the names of projects for whom the demand of declaring them as National projects is pending; and

(d) the time by which those projects are likely to be declared as National projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). It was proposed to categorise River Valley Projects including Barrage Projects falling under the following criteria as nationally important projects :-

- (i) Projects which are either international or having international aspects;
- (ii) Any State Project or projects having inter-State aspects with irrigation potential above 1 lakh hectares;
- (iii) Projects of national importance from other angles.

However, no project in irrigation sector has been declared as 'National Project'.

(c) and (d). Do not arise

Job Oriented Education

1245. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines issued to State Governments to lay much emphasis on job oriented education; and

(b) the steps taken to assist the State Governments to popularise and expand the scope of vocational courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No Sir. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in February, 1988 with the primary objective to enhance individual employability.

(b) For popularisation of Vocational Education Programme following steps have been taken :-

- several documents have been prepared and issued particularly for development of

curriculum, instructional material, school industry linkages, training of teachers, vocational surveys etc.

- folders, posters, vocational films developed.
- publication of Vocational Education Bulletin.
- organisation of exhibition of material produced by students.

For expanding the scope of vocational courses :-

- Joint Council for Vocational Education has been set up at national level for providing guidance to the programme.
- A Central Institute of Vocational Education has been set up to provide technical and academic support.
- 60 Vocational courses have been covered under Apprenticeship Act.
- State Govts/UTs have been asked to develop school Industry linkages.

Loss of Crops and Property by Flood

1246. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual loss to crops and property due to flood havocs;

(b) the steps being taken to control the flood damages;

(c) the steps taken to preserve the water by proper utilisation of the rainy water for irrigation.

(d) whether the project of linking of rivers is being revived for better water management, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Annual average loss to crop and property due to floods based on data from 1953 to 1994 is estimated at about Rs 982 crores

(b) The various flood management measures such as embankments, drainage channels, town protection works, raising of villages, and anti erosion schemes undertaken through successive five year plans have provided a reasonable degree of protection to an area of 14.4 million ha (against a flood prone area of 40 million ha as assessed by RBA) Till March 1995, about Rs 4159 crores have been spent on flood management works. The Central Government is operating 157 flood forecasting stations covering 62 river basins which are providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Government for issuing warnings and organising rescue & relief operations.

(c) In the Five Year Plans emphasis was placed on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the