

1995-96. The Couple Protection Rate in the year 1996-97. was 45.4%.

(c) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a Differential strategy has been adopted for various States and districts, in respect of reducing the mortality and morbidity among women and children. The Reproducing and Child Health Programme provides for a set of interventions common to the whole country, and additional services to selected States/districts. In addition, enhancement of local capacity through district or city specific projects has been provided for.

(d) While there continue to be general but non-specific statements expressing apprehension that female foeticide is quite common in the country, specific complaints or facts are not readily volunteered by individuals and agencies. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuses) Act, 1994, which prohibits determination of the sex of the foetus, is in force from 1st January, 1996.

[English]

Labour Courts

2373. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some new labour courts in Delhi for early disposal of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for early disposal of pending cases since 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has set up one Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT-cum-LC) in Delhi for adjudication of industrial disputes for which they are the appropriate Govt. under the Industrial Disputes Act. While there is no proposal at present under consideration for setting up more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts in Delhi, the number of industrial disputes and applications pending during 1982 to middle of 1997 was 754 and 415 respectively. In order to expedite disposals, long pending cases are being accorded priority and hearings are fixed after short intervals.

Computer Design Units

2374. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Computer Design Unit at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said unit is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) There is no such proposal with the Department of Electronics.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reimbursement of Medical Bills

2375. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government not to foot pensioners' private medical bills" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the rationale behind discriminating the pensioners in not footing their private medical bills, and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) There is no discrimination against the pensioners. According to the prescribed procedure for referral to private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS, after the initial advice of a CGHS Specialist, a "Permission Letter" for such treatment is given by the CMO incharge of the concerned dispensary. In case of a medical emergency, the CMO incharge of the concerned CGHS dispensary may directly (i.e. even before Specialist's advice has been obtained) refer the CGHS pensioner to a private recognised hospital for further management/treatment after recording the details thereof. The expenditure to be reimbursed is restricted to the package deal rates/rates approved by the Government from time to time.

[Translation]

Areas Held by Myanmar

2376. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Myanmar has constructed a road

passing through certain villages of Manipur;

(b) whether some areas of India are taken by them in the construction of this road;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) No information is available of any road having been constructed by Myanmar passing through villages of Manipur.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Provident Fund Defaulters in U.P.

2377. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional Provident Fund Commissioner Uttar Pradesh has detected a large number of defaulters of employees Provident Fund and most of them belongs to export business houses in Agra, Lucknow and Kanpur;

(b) whether RPFC, U.P. has made out a comprehensive list of defaulters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the penal action taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In Uttar Pradesh there are a number of EPF defaulters out of whom some belong to export business houses.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The requisite details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under Section 7A, 8, 14 etc. of the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, is being taken for recovery of the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Software Adoption in Administration

2378. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directions to all the State and Central Government organisations to adopt "information technology software" in administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any project report has been received from Andhra State Government on "information technology software" in administration; and

(d) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1986, the Government issued directive to all the Central Government Departments to use NICNET of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to adopt information technology software in administration and their other areas of work. NIC has signed Memorandum of Understanding with all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for use of NICNET by them to adopt information technology software in administration and other areas of day-to-day operations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposals address the emerging paradigm of electronic governance being ushered in by information Technology and spell out some of the areas for undertaking pilot projects, internet applications and other information Technology applications which would help in providing a more convenient and citizen friendly interface with government.

[Translation]

Upliftment of Poor Below Poverty Line

2379. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set a target for the upliftment of all the poor people living below poverty line by the year 2005;

(b) if so, the estimated number of poor people living below the poverty line at present especially in Gujarat and the number out of them belong to SCs/STs; and

(c) the year-wise number of the poor people targetted to be uplifted above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) Government.