

In addition the Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of children, especially girl children, through better education, health care and empowerment of women. Schemes for employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of Employment-cum-Income Generating Units for Women, Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are implemented especially in high supply areas of victims of prostitution and for rehabilitation of rescued victims of prostitution.

- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Investment in Ports Development

3676. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have prepared a detailed plan to invest 16000 crores in the ports developments;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the time by which the said programme is likely to be introduced; and
(d) the extent to which the additional capacity of ports would be increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) During 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002), an outlay of Rs. 7,215 crores has been approved for development of Major Ports. In addition to this, projects for capacity creation of about 76 million tonnes are to be taken up through private sector and captive users. Together, it is proposed to create 159 million tonnes additional capacity in Major Ports during the 9th Plan period. The programme has commenced simultaneously with the commencement of 9th Plan.

Demands of Announcers of AIR

3677. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the A.I.R. Announcers federation has submitted any memorandum to the Government.
(b) if so, the main demands made therein; and

(c) the decision taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad demands of the Akashwani Announcers' Association relate to merger of Announcers' Cadre with the Organised Cadre of AIR, pay parity with Transmission Executives and Programme Executives in the event of higher pay scale being given to them, and promotion of Announcers to the grade of Programme Executives.

(c) After the setting up of Prasar Bharati as an autonomous body, a decision, if any, the the matter in the first instance will be taken by Prasar Bharati Board.

Trees Infested with Sal Borer

[Translation]

3678. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a scarcity of buyers for Sal Borer infested Sal trees in Jabalpur, M.P.;
(b) whether Sal Borer pests would play havocs with greater intensity and destroy one after another forests of Sal Borer infested Sal Wood is not disposed of before setting in of monsoon; and
(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

- (a) The Government of India is not aware of any scarcity of buyers for Sal Borer infested Sal trees in Jabalpur.
(b) The Sal beetles emerge at the start of monsoon and they have a life cycle of around 20-25 days, during which they lay eggs and breed further. 'Trap tree operations' are undertaken during the monsoon months to kill the beetle population in order to control spread of attack to healthy trees. The affected trees are also cut and removed from the forests. However, if Trap tree operations are not undertaken timely and felling refuse is not removed from the forest areas, there is a likely-hood of further spread of borer attack with greater intensity.

(c) The Government of India has requested the M.P. Government to undertake 'Trap tree operations' vigorously and to fell the totally dead affected trees. The M.P. Government has also been requested to allocate more budget for the management of natural forests in order to restore the health of Sal forests in the State.

Power Generation from Liquid Fuels

[English]

3679. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the targets fixed for power generation