

[English]

UNICEF for Health and Welfare Sector

334. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on-going programme sponsored by UNICEF and performance reviewed by standard norms thereof for the last three years; state-wise; and year-wise;

(b) whether the UNICEF have launched a special programme to control flurosis spreading its horizon in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise; and

(d) the action plan undertaken by UNICEF for the current year in Health and Welfare Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Programme sponsored by UNICEF during the last three years are in areas of (a) Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (b) Child's Environment-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; (c) Child Development and Nutrition; (d) Primary Education; and (e) Children in need of special protection. During the current year, UNICEF is also supporting Reproductive and Child Health Programme. UNICEF sponsorship for these programmes has been nation-wide and the programme are reviewed periodically by UNICEF in consultation with Ministries/Departments and States.

(b) and (c) UNICEF does not have a special programme to control Flurosis in India; however, a pilot intervention has been initiated in one district each of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh wherein UNICEF support includes capacity building for water quality testing and health survey, supporting research and development on defluoridation unit and community education.

(d) UNICEF's action plan for the current year in the health and Family Welfare sector includes, interalia, supprot for training, safe motherhood and child health interventions, immunisation and monitoring and evaluation.

Welfare Fund for Emigrant Workers

335. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV :
(JHANJHARPUR)

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council for Constitution of a Welfare Fund for the benefit of the Emigrant Workers in the country;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal alongwith its terms and conditions; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up and made functional ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to render promotional and advisory services and for constitution of a Welfare Fund for the emigrant workers is under consideration of the Government. As the matter involves Inter-ministerial consultations, which are already on, it is not possible to indicate any specific time schedule for setting up of the proposed Council and constitution of the proposed Welfare Fund.

[Translation]

Exploration of Natural Gas

336. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploration potentials of natural gas have been identified in Parvatpur of Bokaro district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to excavate gas therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Exploration for coal bed methane has been initiated by ONGC in Parbatpur area of Bihar, as an R & D project.

(b) An R & D well, Jharia-I, located in the Prabatpur block of Jharia coal field in Bihar, was drilled to a depth of 670 m. Methane gas flowed @ 2400 m³/d along with water @ 9-6 m³/d, from a coal seam within Barakar Formation, during the initial testing.

(c) Three R & D locations have been released in Parbatpur area of Jharia coal field to further evaluate coal bed methane potential of various coal seams of Barakar Formation in this area. One block in Southern part of Jharia coal field measuring about 69 sq. kms. has been identified for CBM exploration.