

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):** (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra and West Bengal have not sought any financial assistance from the Centre for development of metropolitan cities in their States. A request has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for Central assistance for development of Madras on the occasion of the Tricentenary of the Madras Corporation.

The State Govt. has been asked to submit detailed specific schemes to justify the request.

[*Translation*]

#### **Pension to Retired Journalists**

9101. **DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States where pension is being given to retired journalists;

(b) the States which are not covered by this facility;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any directives to States so that pension is given to journalists in all States; and

(d) if so, the time by which such directives would be issued?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):** (a) to (d). At present, there is no retiring pension scheme for the journalists. The question of issuing directives to the State Governments for giving pension to the journalists does not, therefore, arise. The Government is, however, considering the question of providing a suitable retiring pension scheme for journalists and for other workers covered by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

[*English*]

#### **Employment Exchange Statistics**

9102. **SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAWANSHI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment exchange statistics do not provide a picture of actual condition; and

(b) if so, the measures which are being proposed to have adequate authentic information on employment situation in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):**

(a) Employment Exchanges provide statistics of job-seekers registered with them, not all of whom are necessary unemployed.

(b) Authentic information on employment situation is already regularly available from the quinquennial surveys of employment, unemployment, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

#### **Construction of Houses**

9103. **SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of construction of houses leads to environmental problems;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to change the present system; and

(c) if so, whether these changes are proposed to be implemented with regard to lower income group construction activities?

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):** (a) and (b). No. Sir. The National Buildings code