

(a) whether he visited the **Beggars Home** in new Delhi recently and directed some beggars to be freed;

(b) if so, the directions given by him in this regard; and

(c) the action take thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) to (c). The Minister for Welfare visited Sewa Kutir, Kingsway Camp, Delhi, on 17th March 1990, and interviewed a few of the inmates. After reviewing the cases of those persons who apparently did not appear to be beggars, 58 inmates were identified personally by the Minister, of which 13 were released on 17.3.90 itself. The Minister for Welfare also directed that all cases of the beggar home inmates be reviewed. As a follow-up action the Delhi Administration has been advised to review the cases of all beggar inmates lodged in all the different Beggar Homes in Delhi.

Water Rates in Delhi

6449. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union government have received any representation against the enhanced rates of water by representation against the enhanced rates of water by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c). Yes Sir. The surcharge of 20% levied for the year 1990-91 has been withdrawn from all consumers whose monthly con-

sumption does not exceed 20 kilolitres and who are living in rural villages and resettlement colonies and paying flat rate of Rs. 7.50 per month.

Import of Raw Silk

6450. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMAHARAJA WAIDYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import raw-silk during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the import of raw-silk is likely to adversely affect the economy of the raw-silk producing States such as Karnataka;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review its decision in the interest of such States; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The import of silk is allowed only under export promotion schemes of Import Export Policy. The import of silk for indigenous consumption is however not generally encouraged to protect the indigenous industry. In the wake of short supplies and increase in prices the Government had granted an adhoc permission to the Central Silk Board in the year 1988 for import of 100 tonnes of raw silk for prices stabilisation measures. Out of this only 36 tonnes of raw silk has been imported so far. Government has received request for extension of the validity of adhoc permission for import of balance quantity. Besides this, the Government has no fresh proposal for import of raw silk for indigenous consumption during the

current financial year.

(c) to (e). Does not arise.

Irrigation Projects of Gujarat Pending With Union Government

6451. SHRI G.K. SHEKHADA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigation projects from Gujarat pending with union Government for clearance:

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to these projects; and

(c) the steps being taken for an early clearance to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c). Six projects envisaging modernisation of Dantiwada, Bhadar, Shetranji, Tatehwad, Uka-Kakra-par and Kancut Canal system at an estimated cost of about Rs. 171 crores to benefit nearly 88.6 thousand hectares have been techno-economically appraised and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee up to January, 1989, but the State Government has to arrange among others, clearance from environment and forest angles for these projects. In addition, Watrak Reservoir Project has been received in January, 1990 for techno-economic appraisal.

Duty Free Machinery For Jute Products

6452. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend the facility of duty free import of machinery used for manufacture of jute products upto 31 December, 1990:

(b) if so, whether the facility is likely to be available for some more items required for making diversified jute products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have already extended the validity of duty exemption notification allowing import of certain machinery items for manufacture of jute products upto 31.12.90.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. In the interest of encouraging diversification programme in jute industry Government by Notification No. 288/89-Customs dated 29.12.89 have included ten more items of machinery mostly required for manufacture of diversified jute products to the duty exemption Notification No. 489/86-Customs dated 18.12.86.

[Translation]

Ganga Erosion in Unnao District of Uttar Pradesh

6453. SHRI ANWAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gangaghat Nagar Palika area in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh is being eroded by the river Ganga:

(b) whether this has posed a danger to the rail and road bridges connecting Unnao ad Kanpur:

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?