

tering ground of the Siberian Crane.

- (ii) The USSR Government has been requested under the provisions of the Indo-USSR Treaty for protection of migratory birds for affording better protection to the Siberian Crane and its branding areas.
- (iii) Approaching the Governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan for protection of the areas in these countries which fall in the migratory flyway of the Siberian Crane.

2. Some of the major steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect the end-angered migratory birds in general, including the Siberian Crane are as follows:-

- (i) Protection and declaration of wintering grounds of migratory birds as sanctuaries/national parks.
- (ii) Providing legal protection to these species against hunting and illegal trade, by including them in various scheduled of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to states for posting of well equipped protection staff for effective patrolling of the wintering areas.
- (iv) Implementing of policy guidelines for programmes for conservation and management of wetlands which are important habitats of migratory birds and to encourage research thereon.
- (v) Seeking greater international co-operation in protecting and conserving migratory birds through

signing of various international conventions like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar), and

- vi) Taking effective action for implementation of provisions of Indo-USSR Treaty on protection of migratory birds

R & D Programmes on Regional Health Problems

*641. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a network of regional medical research centres had been set up to undertake research and development work on the regional health problems for carrying out clinical studies on and emerging contraceptive technologies; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the clinical studies undertaken and the manner in which they have helped the masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARISAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Indian Council of Medical Research has a network of 33 collaborating centres called Human Reproduction Research Centres located in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in different medical colleges of the country. Out of these 5 centres have been designated as Regional Research Centres for Human Reproduction. All these centres collaborate for clinical trials of testing the safety, efficacy and acceptability of newer contraceptive technologies as also

conduct research on specific problems related to methods already available in the national family welfare programme.

(b) During the last seven years these centres have participated in clinical trials of various methods such as IUDs Oral Contraceptives, implants injectables etc These studies have prevented introduction of contraceptives not suitable to the Indian situation. These clinical studies also provide a continuous feedback to the doctors involved in the programme on technical matters relating to oral and other contraceptives.

Promotion of Handloom Products

*643. SHRI S.B. SIDDHANT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cooperative Development Corporation has introduced any schemes to give financial assistance for joint ventures for the promotion of export of handloom products; and

(b) if so, State-wise details of the schemes assisted or proposed to be assisted by the N.C.D.C. ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Workers in Organised Sector

*644. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers in the organised and unorganised sectors, separately; and

(b) the steps taken to protect the inter-

ests of the unorganised labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Workers are enumerated in the Census by the sector of activity in which they are engaged; e.g. agriculture and allied occupations, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, constructions, services, etc. Since there exists no definitional clarity about the terms "organised" labour and "Unorganised" labour, it is not possible to classify accurately the number of workers in these two categories.

(b) Apart from the protection available to labour through various labour laws applicable to them such as Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act 1979; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970; Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1976; etc, the Ministry of Labour also undertakes welfare activities which cover workers in iron ore, manganese and chrome ore mines, limestone and dolomite mines, mica mines and beedi workers. Child labour is covered by the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986, while plantations labour is covered under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. The enforcement of these laws is reviewed at the meetings of the State Labour Ministers' Conference. In addition, there are Insurance/Social Security Schemes which are implemented by Various States Governments, covering landless agricultural labour, Handloom Weavers, Rickshaw Pullers, Auto Rickshaw Drivers and the poor families. The package of anti-poverty programmes such as IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, etc. is also aimed at bettering the lot of the landless agricultural labour who form the bulk of the unorganised workers.