

(d) whether Government have also taken into consideration the moral hazards involved in placing such restrictions on girls in puberty; and

(e) whether the law revising the marriageable age of girls will be enforced on all communities in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) to (e). The Government of India is considering the question of raising the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys. Before undertaking legislation for the purpose, all relevant advice will be taken and various aspects considered.

**Realisation of Penalties from Directors of M.s. Bird & Co.**

\*89. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 314 on the 6th April, 1966 and state:

(a) whether outstanding balances of the unrealised penalties on M. S. Pilkington and Michelmore, former directors of the M. S. Bird & Co. have since been realised; and

(b) if not, how it is proposed to realise them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Certificates specifying the amount due from each one of the two persons have been sent to the District Collector of 24 Parganas, West Bengal for recovery of the amounts as if they were arrears of land revenue as per Section 142(1) (c) of the Customs Act, 1962.

**Drinking water shortage in Famine Affected areas**

\*90. Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh:  
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Sukam Chand Kachwal:  
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:  
Shri Shobani Mishra:  
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Shri K. M. Madhukar:  
Shri Madhu Limaye:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:  
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the drought and famine affected areas of Bihar and U. P.

(b) whether the Governments of Bihar and U.P. have sought Centre's assistance in meeting the water problem in these areas;

(c) if so, the nature and extent of the assistance asked for; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-375/67].

#### Pensions

257. Shri Ranjit Singh:  
Shri B. S. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the temporary and ad hoc rates of increase in pension made since 1947 are applicable to the retired employees of the Central Government living abroad and drawing pension in foreign currency; and

(b) the date of last increase in rates made applicable to such persons?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) Temporary Ad hoc increases in pension at the rates payable in India are applicable, if otherwise admissible under the orders in force, to the following categories of