

and Japan, separately and the estimated rate of production ; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to set up factory and the location of the factory in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) The Maharashtra Cooperative Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. propose to establish a soda ash/ammonium chloride plant in Maharashtra with Japanese collaboration. The detailed proposals are awaited.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Deaths due to Cold Wave in the Country

*128. SHRIMATI ILA PAL-
CHOUDHURI :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAL :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many people generally belonging to poorer classes of society, who have neither huts nor houses nor any other place to live in, and are better known as "pavement dwellers" have died as result of the cold wave which swept over the whole country recently ;

(b) if so, the total number of deaths regarding which official reports have been received by Government from the different States ;

(c) the arrangements and facilities, if any, made and provided for homeless persons as a measure of protection from cold before the advent of and during the current winter ; and

(d) the total amount spent directly by the Central Government and / or through the States thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The Slum Clearance Scheme provides for the construction of Night Shelters in cities and towns where the problem of pavement dwellers is acute. These Night Shelters are meant for providing sleeping accommodation on nominal charges. Night Shelters have been provided in Delhi, Agra and Ahmedabad.

(d) The grant of financial assistance from the Government of India to the State Governments for construction of Night Shelters is based on the patterns of assistance prescribed under the Slum Clearance Scheme. Since the inception of the Slum Clearance Scheme in May, 1956 and upto 31st March, 1968 Central assistance totalling Rs. 32.00 crores has been released to the State Governments and Union Territories for implementing the Slum Clearance Scheme which includes construction of Night Shelters.

"Smuggling of Sugar from Nepal into India"

*129. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) the quantities and value in rupees of Polish, Russian and Czechoslovakian sugar seized in the process of being smuggled from Nepal into India and the total period during which the seizures were made; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent smuggling and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) A quantity of about 1.034 quintals of sugar of foreign origin including Polish, Russian and Czechoslovakian sugar valued at about Rs. 3.14 lakhs was seized during the period from January,