

(c) whether the Authority will also be entrusted with the creation of a specialised agency for port operations and development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) (a) No, Sir.

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

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: The answer of the Hon. Minister is rather disappointing. Sir, as you know, nowadays it is the day of holding companies. Different small companies are being joined together to have a large company so that Government policy can be implemented more easily. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government thinks that if a National Ports Authority comprising of 11 major ports in India is made, it would be easier for the Government to control the policy regarding the ports throughout the country?

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir, the proposal to create a National Port Authority is under consideration of this Ministry. For this purpose we have prepared a note and that has been circulated to various ministries and departments such as the Ministry of Finance, Bureau of Public Enterprises, Department of Administrative Reforms, Ministry of Commerce and Planning Commission and their comments have been received. Presently, we have been waiting for the comments from the Ministry of Law and Justice. As soon as the reply is received from the Ministry, we will actively consider this proposal.

USA grant to help immunisation of infants and mothers

*977. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant was given to the United Nations International Childrens' Emergency Fund this year by the USA for universal immunisation programme to help immunise infants and mothers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to utilise this amount for desert districts of Rajasthan where people are suffering from severe nutritional deficiency like calorie deficiency. Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Anaemia owing to continuous drought; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. USAID has signed an Agreement with the UNICEF to provide US \$ 25.5 million for India's Universal Immunization Programme. This grant is to be utilised to take care of the components of the Programme like the supply of cold-chain, purchase of vaccines, preparation and supply of Health Education materials and transport. This Programme will be taken up in the entire country to reduce the mortality and morbidity of infants and pregnant women due to the six vaccine preventable diseases.

[Translations]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people in desert districts of Rajasthan, particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer which were recently visited by the hon. Minister, are suffering from severe nutritional deficiencies like calorie deficiency, Vitamin 'A' deficiency and Anaemia due to successive drought for five years. In view of the fact that assistance is being provided by the technology mission, UNICEF and Health department, I would like to know also what effective measures have been taken to assist the people and to bring a decline in the disease cases?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, in the context of what the hon. Member has just referred to, I would like to remind him that the issues which were raised during my visit to Barmer and other districts were settled and the demands for folic acid, 'B' complex tablets and holigone tablets have been met. Besides, the assistance required

for that particular area from Government of India has already been provided by our department.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our districts have really been benefited by the assistance provided by Central Government and there is no more scarcity of medicines there. I would like to know the achievements of the combined efforts of UNICEF and Technology Mission regarding the immunization programme. I would also like to know about the incentives being given for further improvement.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: I don't think that the hon. Member is totally ignorant about the progress. Almost all the Schemes of UNICEF and of the concerned Ministry are being implemented in your state. The Government will try to provide maximum assistance something more is needed and the attention of the Government is invited to it.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Restructuring of telecommunication cadres

S.N.Q. 2. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometime before Government had given an assurance that action on the various issues regarding restructuring of Telecommunications cadres would be expedited;

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Committee on pay scales of technical and allied cadres under the Chairman-

ship of Shri S.M. Agarwal, former Secretary (Communications) submitted its report on 21.12.87. This report was discussed with all the three staff Federations of Department of Telecommunications.

After thorough examination of the report taking into consideration the various demands of the three Federations, a final proposal for cadre restructuring was drawn up by the Department of Telecom. and sent to Finance Ministry and copy to Department of Personnel and Training and Cabinet Secretary for approval.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has been requested by Minister (E&C) to convene a meeting of group of three Ministers consisting of Finance Minister, Minister (Energy & Communications) and Minister of State for Personnel and Training to finalize the cadre restructuring soon.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: There is an impression in the country that the Government will act only when there is an agitation. During the last Budget Session, there was a strike by a particular cadre of the Tele-Communication Department. Then the Government appointed the Agarwal Committee and an assurance was given on the floor of the House that the Committee's Report will be issued within a month's time and it will be implemented soon. It is nearly five months since the Report came but till todate, the Report has not been implemented.

May I know from the hon. Minister--when the union leaders met him, he disarmed them by his talks and after talking with him, they returned thinking that it will be implemented--whether there was any understanding between the union leaders and particularly with one or two unions of the Department, with regard to the re-structuring of the Tele-Communication cadre there? If so, what are the main points of the understanding? Will you kindly enlighten us?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The fact is that there are three federations. As soon as I took over the charge, there was already a protest and strike by one of the unions.