

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Railways have sought for external assistance for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) and (b). There is a proposal to provide escalators at important Railway Stations where large number of passengers have to negotiate foot-over-bridges. Accordingly, escalators have already been provided at New Delhi Railway Station.

(c) No, Sir.

Wind Energy and Solar Energy Centres in U.P.

2615. SHRI RAM NIHORI RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study was conducted to open Wind Energy and Solar Energy Centres in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra, districts of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to send a team to study the possibilities of opening Wind Energy and Solar energy Centres in these two districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal for sending a team to these districts to study possibilities of opening Wind Energy and Solar Energy Centres.

Housing Projects in Assam

2616. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some housing projects have been implemented in Assam with foreign assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which this assistance is being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S S AHLUWALIA) : (a) No, Sir. Government of India have not secured any foreign assistance for urban housing programme in the State of Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

Drinking Water

2617. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether drinking water at many stations specially in tribal areas under Western Railway is neither available nor the drinking water place is properly maintained;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme to provide clean and cold drinking water at all the Railway Stations located under tribal areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) to (e). Railways have provided drinking water at all the railway stations in one way or other for the use of the bonafide passengers irrespective of the area in which the station falls. Water coolers are provided at stations which deal with an average of 1000 passengers or more per day and where piped water supply and electricity are available. No discrimination is made between tribal and non-tribal areas in this regard. Such facilities are augmented based on need on regular monitoring.

Benefit of Interim Relief

2618. DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the widowers/widows of the deceased CPF beneficiaries of the Railways getting an ex-gratia pension of Rs.150/- per month will also be given the benefit of Interim Relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to consider this case sympathetically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India (Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare's) decision to sanction interim Relief at the rate of Rs.50/- per month and in addition 10% of the ex-gratia amount subject to a minimum of Rs.50/- per month w.e.f. 1st April, 1995 to the widows and dependent children of the deceased CPF beneficiaries who had retired from service prior to 1.1.86 or who died while in service prior to 1.1.86 and who are in receipt of ex-gratia payment of Rs.150/- per month has been extended in case of Railways also vide Railway Board's letter No.PC-V/95/IR(P) dated 07-12-95.

(c) Does not arise.