

consideration. The administrative recommendations are under consideration.

**Study Work of Casual/Muster-Roll Labourers of the Regional Stationery Depot, New Delhi**

1980. SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study of the question of de-casualisation of casual/muster-roll labourers in the Government of India Publication Branch, Delhi and the Regional Stationery Depot, New Delhi has been completed, if so, the action taken by the Ministry on the Report made as a result of this study; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to conduct such studies in the other Department under this Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) The studies in question were completed in May, 1971 and September, 1972 respectively. The recommendations are being processed.

(b) No, Sir.

**Medical Aid to Poor**

1981. SHRI R. R. SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the action taken during the last three years, year-wise for making available medical aid to poor and needy people at cheap rates and conveniently and the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): Medical care is available at Government Hospitals and dispensaries to

the weaker sections of the population without any cost. In fact, diet charges are also not recovered from such in-door patients. The existing facilities are being progressively increased within the financial resources available. In the rural areas there are 5192 Primary Health Centres and 10,600 sub-centres. In addition to them, Mobile Training-cum-service hospitals are also rendering services in health, medical care and family planning. 26,000 hospital beds have also been proposed to be added in the various hospitals in the country under the State schemes during the Fourth Five Year Plan and block grants for this purpose are released to the State Governments.

**Proposal to introduce Famine Relief Tax**

1982. SHRI RAMKANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to introduce famine relief tax;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) whether the Central Government is likely to help State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central financial assistance has been given to the drought affected States. On the basis of the recommendations made by the Central Study Teams which visited such States, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 192.84 crores has been adopted, against which funds to the extent of Rs. 122.09 crores have been released so far for relief measures.