

ity improvement of handloom products.

World Bank aid for Swarnrekha Project

2471. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank aid was made available for the construction of the Swarnrekha Multi-purpose project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Design Organisation for the Bihar Sector of the project has been functioning properly; and

(d) the time by which the project was scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The World Bank credit assistance for an amount of SD Rs. 116.30 million was made available for the Subernarekha Irrigation Project during 1982-89. The credit has been fully utilised.

(c) The Design Organisation of the Irrigation Department, Government of Bihar is functioning under the Chief Engineer (Design), State Irrigation Department.

(d) The credit agreement for the Subernarekha Irrigation Project that was being implemented with World Bank assistance was closed on 31.3.89. However, as per the draft annual plan 1990-91 documents submitted by the Government of Bihar, the Project is scheduled to be completed by the year 1994-95.

Rise in Public Distribution System Beneficiaries

2472. SHRI TARIF SINGH:
SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS
PATEL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage rise of beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System from the weaker sections particularly from the rural poor during the years 1987 to 1989, year-wise;

(b) the total food subsidy borne by Government during 1987 to 1989 year-wise;

(c) whether Government have made any study to know the extent of diversion of foodgrains meant for Public Distribution System to the open market in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to check it and extend the benefits of the Public Distribution System to the agricultural workers and the rural poor to the maximum?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) Public Distribution System is of universal nature. No separate data regarding coverage of weaker sections, rural poor etc. is maintained. According to the information made available by States/UTs with whom the administration of Public Distribution System rests, the population covered by ration cards as on 31.12.88 would be over 71 crores.

(b) Food subsidy released to the F.C.I. during 1986-87 to 1988-89 is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount of Food Subsidy (Rs. in crores)</i>
1986-87	2000
1987-88	2000
1988-89	2200

(c) and (d). Delhi Administration has stated that no specific study on the subject has been undertaken. Some of the measures taken by the Administration to check possible diversion of foodgrains from PDS include supply of PDS foodgrains at the door step of the fair price shops, periodical inspection by the enforcement branch etc

(e) Some of the steps adopted by States/UTs to check diversion of foodgrains and other irregularities are frequent inspection of fair price shops, taking appropriate action against erring fair price shop holders under the terms of the licence, strict enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, setting up of Consumer Advisory/Vigilance Committees at various levels etc.

To extend the benefit of PDS to rural people, States/UTs have been advised to issue ration cards to all the families in rural areas, introduce mobile fair price shops to cover people residing in far-flung, remote, tribal, hilly and desert areas, open sale centres for PDS items at haats in rural and tribal areas etc.

[*Translation*]

**E.P.F. Outstanding against NTC Mills,
Madhya Pradesh**

2473. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Employees Provident Fund outstanding against nationalised textile mills in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the action taken to recover the outstanding E.P.F. amount from the management of the mills?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) According to available information, there is no amount of Employees Provident Fund dues outstanding against the nationalised mills in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Proposal to Augment Facilities at Dr.
R.P. Centre**

2474. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to augment existing facilities at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi to make it one of the best centres of the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to make other Ophthalmic Centres of the country at par with Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences in the Eighth Plan period to reduce over-crowding at Dr. R.P. Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) and (b). Dr. Rajendra Prasad