

(d) whether Government have also taken into consideration the moral hazards involved in placing such restrictions on girls in puberty; and

(e) whether the law revising the marriageable age of girls will be enforced on all communities in the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) to (e). The Government of India is considering the question of raising the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys. Before undertaking legislation for the purpose, all relevant advice will be taken and various aspects considered.

Realisation of Penalties from Directors of M.s. Bird & Co.

*89. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 314 on the 6th April, 1966 and state:

(a) whether outstanding balances of the unrealised penalties on M. S. Pilkington and Michelmore, former directors of the M. S. Bird & Co. have since been realised; and

(b) if not, how it is proposed to realise them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Certificates specifying the amount due from each one of the two persons have been sent to the District Collector of 24 Parganas, West Bengal for recovery of the amounts as if they were arrears of land revenue as per Section 142(1) (c) of the Customs Act, 1962.

Drinking water shortage in Famine Affected areas

*90. Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Sukam Chand Kachwal:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri Subhaji Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Shri K. M. Madhukar:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the drought and famine affected areas of Bihar and U. P.

(b) whether the Governments of Bihar and U.P. have sought Centre's assistance in meeting the water problem in these areas;

(c) if so, the nature and extent of the assistance asked for; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-375/67].

Pensions

257. Shri Ranjit Singh:
Shri B. S. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the temporary and ad hoc rates of increase in pension made since 1947 are applicable to the retired employees of the Central Government living abroad and drawing pension in foreign currency; and

(b) the date of last increase in rates made applicable to such persons?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Deas): (a) Temporary Ad hoc increases in pension at the rates payable in India are applicable, if otherwise admissible under the orders in force, to the following categories of

pensioners in respect of pensions paid outside India:

- (i) Officers retiring on or after the 1st April, 1955 other than European Officers who before the 15th August, 1947 belonged to the Secretary of State's Civil Services;
- (ii) Officers or their dependents in respect of whom extraordinary pensions are granted from or after the 1st April, 1955 other than European Officers who before the 15th August, 1947 belonged to the Secretary of States Civil Services;
- (iii) Any non-European pensioners residing in any of the countries specified in Article 118 of the Account Code. Volume IV, viz. Ceylon, Singapore & Malaysia.
- (iv) Central Government pensioners drawing their pensions through Indian Embassies in Nepal, Gyantse, Tehran, Baghdad and Jeddha.

(b). The last increase was given with effect from 1st October, 1963.

Keep-the-Capital-clean Schemes

258. Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether a modern system of refuse disposal and schemes to keep the capital city of New Delhi clean has been formulated; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). No. However, a proposal for modernising the system of refuse disposal by installation of incinerators and mechanical composting plant is under consideration of the New Delhi Municipal Com-

mittee. The installation of a modern plant for the disposal of refuse involves a heavy expenditure in foreign-exchange and it will be quite a long time before a final decision is taken in the matter.

Taking over or financing of major Projects by Centre

259. Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 690 on the 6th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision with regard to the proposal to take over or finance some major projects; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) and (b). Some selected major projects are being given 100 per cent earmarked loan assistance by the Centre. The criteria for selection of additional projects for which Central assistance might be earmarked in the Fourth Plan is under consideration.

Legislation for Surgical Operations

260. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the serious charges made by a well-known ENT specialist, Dr. V. S. Subramaniam, while presiding over the 19th Conference of Oto-Laryngologists of India on the 14th January, 1967 in Poona about the conduct of special operations, Government propose to undertake legislation to prevent or regulate surgical operations in the country;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) to (c). The medical profession is subject to the code of ethics prescribed by the State Medical Councils, and any misconduct