

being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs will be applicable in respect of these persons also.

[English]

Beggars Ran Away for Beggars Remand

3190. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Beggars Remand Homes of Uttar Pradesh have become a halting place of criminals and the beggars are living like slaves under the miserable conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the beggars homes of Delhi during each of the last three years and the heads on which it was spent;

(d) whether any complaint regarding misuse of funds have been received;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government against the guilty officials and improving the living standards of the beggars in Beggar Remand Homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Agreement with Trinidad and Tobago

3191. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide know-how to Trinidad and Tobago in the housing sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed between both the countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, which provides a framework towards development of technical cooperation between the two countries in housing and human settlements.

(c) The cooperation between the two countries will be implemented through:

(i) Exchange of scientific and technical experts for study, training and consultancy;

(ii) Exchange of technology information and results of evaluation and validation;

(iii) Transfer and/or trading of Indian machines, equipment and materials or products;

(iv) Through the Shelter Support Centre the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago jointly with the Government of the Republic of India, would facilitate technology dissemination throughout the CARICOM Region.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be implemented through development of biennial action plans to be developed jointly. These will describe specific activities to be undertaken under this cooperation programme and set forth the intended contributions of each party. Exchange of visits of experts pursuant to action plan approved jointly, i.e., the sending site will meet the expenditure on international travel whereas the host country will meet the cost on board/loading and internal transport subject to any specific agreement between the counterpart agencies and the parties to this MoU. The transfer of validated and approved technology from one country to the other will be on payment of cost mutually agreed. The transfer of Indian machines and building materials based on selected technologies will be on the actual costs basis.

[English]

Land Occupied by Assam

3192. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Assam has forcibly occupied some areas of Nagaland violating interim inter-state border agreement; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to solve the inter-state dispute over occupying land?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Both Assam and Nagaland have alleged that the other side is attempting to occupy certain areas within its territories violating the agreement to maintain status quo till the border dispute is resolved. The representatives of the two State Governments have met in an attempt to resolve the issue.

Teen Bigha

3193. SHRI M. RAJIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Teen Bigha" in Cooch Behar has become a corridor of contention with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken to thwart the tension of the local peoples?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3194. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry in conjunction with UNICEF have commissioned the Operation Research Group (ORG) to do a survey on mid-day meal scheme in States to assess its success;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of States where this survey was conducted;

(c) whether only 70% of the allocated foodgrains under this scheme is distributed by the FCI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to restrict this scheme to the children below poverty line or malnourished children;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any request has been received from the State Governments to increase quota of foodgrains during the current year; and

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The study has been conducted in 10 States, namely Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and west Bengal.

(c) and (d) According to information furnished by Food Corporation of India (FCI), 70.5% of the allocated foodgrains was lifted by different district agencies all over the country in 1997-98. The reasons for this include a number of enrolled children not fulfilling the attendance criterion of 80%, difficulties in transportation of foodgrains in remote and inaccessible areas as well as other operational problems.

(e) and (f) In view of the resource constraints being faced in implementation of the scheme, State Governments have been requested to comment on suggestions to restrict the beneficiaries under the scheme to the most needy children.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Appointments made in TRIFED

3195. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post-wise/group-wise and cadre-wise appointment/promotion made in TRIFED during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of SC/STs appointed/promoted during the above period;

(c) who is Head of Personnel Department TRIFED;

(d) whether he is technical or a person having qualification Requirement of Personnel Department; and