

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps proposed to be taken on these suggestions and recommendations; and

(d) whether the Government are also aware of the plea made by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to adopt "hunger free scheme" at the National Level and include it in the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Insurance Cover to Victims of Natural Calamities

2557. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether group insurance through Zila Parishads provides relief to the victims of natural calamities like that of the Andhra cyclone.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce compulsory group insurance in each district as a welfare measure against the natural disasters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of insurance companies in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such scheme under implementation through Zila Parishads at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Lottery

2558. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received a request from the Government of Delhi for banning the sale of lottery in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for sanctioning the ban on sale of Delhi Lottery tickets in Delhi;

(d) the time by which this proposal/request is likely to be implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any assurance has been given by the Prime Minister to bring a legislation on banning the lottery business;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which this legislation is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (h). The Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi has written to the Prime Minister seeking enactment of a Central legislation in order to ban the lottery trade. The matter is under examination.

Mustard Research Centres

2559. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of National Mustard Research Centres in Madhya Pradesh particularly at Morena and Bhind districts is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in clearing the same and

(c) the time by which these Centres are likely to be set up in the said districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) ICAR established a National Research Centre of Rapeseed & Mustard at Bharatpur in Rajasthan in 1993 with the mandate to coordinate research work on rapeseed & mustard in the country. A Mustard Centre is also currently in operation under the All India Coordinated Research Project in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh with a strength of six scientists and a budget of Rs. 15.93 lakhs (for 8th Plan) to cater to the needs of the farmers of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

[English]

Control on Activities of NGOs

2560. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Central Government regarding independent functioning of NGOs in various social welfare schemes.

(b) whether the West Bengal State Government has desired to impose their own control on the activities of NGOs engaged in various welfare schemes in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Grant-in-aid to NGOs are given on the basis of prescribed norms and criteria laid down in various schemes of the Ministry. There is no separate policy as such for independent functioning of NGOs.

(b) No such information has been communicated to the Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Blind, Deaf and Dumb Persons

2561. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blind, deaf, dumb and physically handicapped persons in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the schemes undertaken by the Government of India for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 estimated that about 16.15 million people were suffering from physical handicap including locomotor, speech and hearing and visual handicap

(b) A statement showing the schemes undertaken for the welfare of handicapped persons is enclosed

STATEMENT

(1) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to Voluntary Organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation physically, psychological, social and economic. Financial support is given to the extent of 90% of total project cost (upto 95% for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, placement services etc.

(2) Establishment and Development of Special Schools

The Scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90% for establishment and upgradation of special schools in four major disabilities - orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) Assistance to Organisations for Persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for Manpower Development

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental retardation.

(4) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) National Institutes

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These institutes are apex level organisations in one field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their area of disability :-

- (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun
- (ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta
- (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay
- (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons :-

- (i) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi
- (ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa

(6) Employment

- (i) Section 33 of the persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from
 - (a) blindness or low vision,
 - (b) hearing impairment, and
 - (c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the post-identified for each disability. 3% reservation in Group 'C' & 'D' for handicapped persons had already been