

norms of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO);

(b) if so, the names of such Airports in the country where the height of ATC towers exceeds the said permissible height alongwith their respective height of Air Traffic Control: and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take against persons responsible for clearing such projects by ignoring the norms of ICAO?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANT KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no uniform specified height for control towers. ICAO requires that the height of Control Tower should be such that the Air Traffic Controller has all around visibility of the acrodrome and its vicinity. The Tower should also conform to the recommended practices relating to operational services at the airport.

(b) and (c) A Committee headed by Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth had raised doubts on the permissible height of ATC towers at Mumbai and Chennai. Opinion of ICAO experts has been sought and appropriate action will be decided after the receipt of their reply.

Reviewal of Bangalore Airport Project

1327. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Bangalore Airport Project may take off" appearing in the Time of India dated April 3, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The project proposal is under consideration of the Central Government and a decision will be taken shortly.

Objectives of NSAP

1328. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main features and objectives of the centrally sponsored 'National Social Assistance Programme' launched in 1995 to fulfil the Directive Principles of the constitution;

(b) the funds allocated to each State for the implementation of the programme since its inception;

(c) the results achieved under the programme' State-wise;

(d) whether the full amount has been released to all the States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Programme which came into force w.e.f. 15.8.1995. It has three components; namely, National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). It aims at providing financial assistance @ Rs. 75 per month to destitute persons aged 65 year or more under NOAPS; Rs. 5,000 in case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000 in case of accidental death of primary breadwinner to the bereaved families living below poverty line under NFBS, and Rs. 300 to the pregnant Women of poor households upto first two live births under NMBS.

The NSAP is a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles in Articles 41 and 42 of the constitution recognizing the concurrent responsibility of the Central and State Governments in the matter.

Under the NSAP 100 per cent Central assistance is given to the eligible beneficiaries.

The NSAP is being implemented through the Panchayats and Municipalities in the country. It is being monitored by the Committees constituted at the State Level as well as the District level.

(b) to (e) State-wise allocation, release of funds and achievements of the scheme since 15.8.95 under the three components of NSAP have been given in the enclosed Statement I, II and III.

In some states the funds could not be released in full mainly because of non-fulfillment of certain conditions such as Audit Reports, Utilization Certificate etc.