

West Bengal. These activities relate to modernisation of artisans 'design of handloom weaving, development of CAD system for Baluchari Saree, evaluation of Pachmura clay for Terracotta products using fly ash and upgradation of common clay pottery of Rani Bagh, Bankura.

(c) There is no reference as regards CSIR Science & Technology field station at Bankura.

[Translation]

Misuse of Passes

1935. SHRI MOTILAL VOORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mantralay on mein Pravesh Ke Passon ka durupayog" appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated January 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the persons found responsible for issue of these special passes to private persons and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry for misuse of special passes;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to inquire to ascertain whether these passes were used to collect confidential information; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The news-item contains several allegations that are factually not correct. No irregularities in issue of passes to non-officials or instance of misuse of these passes for collection of confidential information by unauthorised persons have come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Unwed Mothers among Tribals

1936. SHRI MULAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any project/scheme for rehabilitation and protection of unwed mothers among tribals of Wyanad and other areas in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation is pending with the Government; and

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

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

Essential Commodities Act, 1980

1937. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2509 dated December 15, 1998; regarding "blackmarketing/hoarding of commodities" and state:

(a) the details of the provisions of the prevention of blackmarketing and maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 under which State Governments can take action against the persons involved in blackmarketing of essential commodities;

(b) whether the gravity of offence has been prescribed in these Acts'

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Essential Commodities (Special Provision) Act, 1981 is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Under section 3(1) of the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, the State and Central Governments can issue orders of detention against persons whose activities are found prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community.