

proposals have not been finalised. Project is not included in Annual Plan 1990-91.

(b) to (d). The details of the project have not been finalised.

Beggars in Metropolitan Cities

355. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of many road side handicapped beggars on the thorough-fares in the Capital and other Metropolitan cities: and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check the begging?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Government/U.T. Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Old Age Pension to Destitutes

356. SHRIMATISUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that old age pension to destitutes and the infirm is in operation in various States are abysmally low, out-dated and without any uniformity; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a National Task Force to critically review the operation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There is no proposal to appoint any

National Task Force to review the operation of these schemes. These schemes are operated by various State Governments and each State has its own pension scheme, rules and regulations to implement the scheme covering specified number in accordance with their economic capacity. Central Government does not contribute towards the payment of these pensions.

[*Translation*]

Availability of Medicines of Encephalitis in Rajasthan

357. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of persons died in Rajasthan due to encephalitis during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) Whether it is a fact that for the treatment of this disease necessary drugs are imported;

(c) if so, whether due to non-availability of these drugs, they are sold at arbitrary prices by the chemists; and

(d) whether Government propose to make available adequate quantity of these drugs in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) No Case of Japanese Encephalitis have been reported from the State of Rajasthan during the years 1988-89 and 1989-90.

(b) No drug is being imported for the treatment of this disease.

(c) and (d). Question does not arise.