

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):** (a) and (b). The Government of Maharashtra and West Bengal have not sought any financial assistance from the Centre for development of metropolitan cities in their States. A request has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu for Central assistance for development of Madras on the occasion of the Tricentenary of the Madras Corporation.

The State Govt. has been asked to submit detailed specific schemes to justify the request.

[*Translation*]

#### **Pension to Retired Journalists**

**9101. DR. BENGALI SINGH:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States where pension is being given to retired journalists;

(b) the States which are not covered by this facility;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any directives to States so that pension is given to journalists in all States; and

(d) if so, the time by which such directives would be issued?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):** (a) to (d). At present, there is no retiring pension scheme for the journalists. The question of issuing directives to the State Governments for giving pension to the journalists does not, therefore, arise. The Government is, however, considering the question of providing a suitable retiring pension scheme for journalists and for other workers covered by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme.

[*English*]

#### **Employment Exchange Statistics**

**9102. SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment exchange statistics do not provide a picture of actual condition; and

(b) if so, the measures which are being proposed to have adequate authentic information on employment situation in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):** (a) Employment Exchanges provide statistics of job-seekers registered with them, not all of whom are necessary unemployed.

(b) Authentic information on employment situation is already regularly available from the quinquennial surveys of employment, unemployment, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

#### **Construction of Houses**

**9103. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:** Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of construction of houses leads to environmental problems;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to change the present system; and

(c) if so, whether these changes are proposed to be implemented with regard to lower income group construction activities?

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN):** (a) and (b). No. Sir. The National Buildings code

bye-laws governing land use planning standards, landscape and several Indian standards aim at achieving healthy orderly and safe environment in the human settlements.

(c) For improving the environment of informal lower income settlements, slums etc. IS 8888 is recommended as a general guide. The local authorities as per local situations have been requested to review. Master Plan standards, land use plan and regulations, building bye-laws and infrastructure standards to facilitate the construction activity by lower income groups.

#### **Water Conservation Fair in Konkan Region of Maharashtra**

9104. SHRI A. R. ANTULAY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise a fair on water management for agriculture by enlisting the support of Maharashtra Government, Service organisations, universities, nationalised banks equipment distributors and farmers at a suitable place in the Konkan region;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be organised; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) There is no proposal for organising any fair on water management for agriculture in Konkan region of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Normally the Ministry of Water Resources/Central Water Commission participate in exhibitions, fairs etc. at the request of

organisers of such exhibitions. No such request has been received.

#### **Seismicity of Idukki Dam Area**

9105. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that seismic activity will be triggered off by the presence of large reservoirs in the ecologically fragile areas;

(b) whether Idukki area in western ghats is an ecologically fragile area where seismic activity is intensified because of the presence of the Idukki reservoir; and

(c) whether Government propose to institute a judicial enquiry concerning the reservoir induced seismic activity in Idukki area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The geological features at some of the reservoir sites, rather than the presence of large reservoirs, has been reported as cause of reservoir induced seismicity.

(b) The entire country is divided into five seismic zones of various levels of seismic risks and Idukki Dam lies in Zones of various levels of seismic risks and Idukki Dam lies in Zone III. The actual acceleration on account of the largest tremor registered in June, 1988 were far below the design values adopted for Idukki Dam. Studies made by the Kerala State Electricity Board indicate that the seismic activity experienced in the Idukki region is not associated with the Idukki reservoir.

(c) No, Sir.

*(Interruptions)*