

Punjab State Electricity Board

*154. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab State Electricity Board has been re-organised consequent on the re-organisation of Punjab;

(b) if so, the basis on which it has been re-organised and whether it has been agreed to between the States of Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh;

(c) the share of its assets and liabilities allocated to each one of the above four units and the share falling to Himachal Pradesh in terms of items and value;

(d) the principles on which the employees of the Board have been allocated to the different units; and

(e) whether any representation has been made by the Himachal Pradesh Government in this regard and, if so, the decisions taken thereon?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. Discussions between the Central and concerned State Governments are in progress.

Mortality Statistics in States

*155. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have issued any directions to the State Governments with regard to the proper collection of mortality statistics in the various States, especially in famine-affected areas;

(b) if so, the nature of these directions; and

(c) the response of the State Governments and especially the action taken by the outgoing Ministries in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in regard to the collection of statistics relating to starvation deaths etc.?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): (a) While efforts are being made to improve Birth and Death Statistics in all the States under the general direction and guidance of the Registrar General, India, no special instructions had been issued in respect of the famine-affected areas in this regard.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Financial Assistance sought by States to raise D.A. of their employees

*156. **Shri C. Jansardhanan:**
Shri P. C. Adichan:
Shri Bhogendra Jha:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have asked for financial aid in raising the Dearness Allowance of their employees to the level of the Dearness Allowance given to the Central Government Employees; and

(b) if so, the attitude of the Central Government in this respect?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) Several States have asked for financial aid for raising the dearness allowance rates of their employees.

(b) In view of the various other claims on the available resources of the Centre, Government have not been able to assure any assistance in this regard.

India's External Debt Obligation

*157. **Shri Eswara Reddy:**
Shri S. S. Kothari:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of India's external debt obligation;