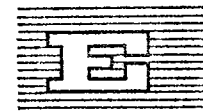


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REPORT

on the Implementation of Economic, Social and
Cultural Rights in the German Democratic Republic

Period: 1 July 1969 - 30 June 1973

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Introduction

For 25 years the German Democratic Republic has worked, to the best of its abilities, for a durable peace, for international détente and disarmament. Aggressiveness, nationalism and chauvinism have been uprooted in the German Democratic Republic once for all. The foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic as a socialist State firmly allied with the USSR and the other States of the socialist community, is guided by the following unshakable principles: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, renunciation of the use or threat of force in international relations, recognition of all peoples' right of self-determination, participation of all States in solving basic problems on the basis of equal rights. Since its inception the German Democratic Republic has stood firmly at the side of the peoples fighting for national freedom and independence and against imperialist domination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, fascism and racism. With its peace policy it has contributed to safeguarding the most fundamental right of all men, the right to live in peace.

Under the leadership of the working class and its party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the German Democratic Republic guarantees full equality for all its citizens irrespective of sex, race or religion.

Party and Government consider it as one of the key purposes of all their activities to realize at an ever higher level the human rights which are guaranteed in socialism.

In the third decade of the German Democratic Republic's existence, the working people are building the advanced socialist society.

The Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, held in Berlin from 15 to 19 June 1971, charted the course to this next target, adopting as the principal policy of state and society to further increase the material and cultural living standards of the people on the basis of a speedy development of production and an increase of its efficiency, of scientific-technological progress and the growth of labour productivity. To implement the decisions of the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, comprehensive measures of social policy, such as increases in pensions, wages and salaries, the improvement of housing conditions without rent increases, the ambitious extension of public health services, the creation of new recreation facilities, effective support of families with many children, were taken and realized. The principal target of the social policy programme of the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany is to solve the housing problem in the German Democratic Republic by 1990. All in all this programme is the most extensive and comprehensive one ever carried out in the German Democratic Republic in the field of social policy. The principle of doing everything for the well-being of man, for the **happiness** of the people and for the interests of the working class and all working people is fully materializing in the socialist society. Socialist democracy finds expression in a growing creative activity of the citizens in all fields.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Erich Honecker, said at the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany: "We are guided by only one objective, which permeates the entire policy of our party: to do everything possible for the well-being of man, for the happiness of the people, for the interests of the working class and all working people. That is the meaning of socialism."

The home and foreign policies of the Party and Government of the German Democratic Republic, aimed at promoting the well-being of man, is in full harmony with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants on human rights of 1966 which were ratified by the German Democratic Republic in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Further prerequisites for the full exercise of the fundamental rights of citizens were created, both by legislation and State and social practice, in this country in the period under review. A meaningful and cultured life worthy of human dignity is a living reality for every citizen in the German Democratic Republic.

As far as it appears necessary for an easier understanding of the continuous implementation of human rights since the German Democratic Republic was established in 1949, this Report refers to fundamental documents and measures from before the period under review.

- I. Concise introductory description of general policies of economic and social development which have contributed in a significant manner during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 to ensuring the recognition, realization and protection of economic, social and cultural rights

The right formulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to social conditions under which the provisions of the Declaration can be fully realized (Article 28 of the Declaration) has been implemented in the German Democratic Republic. The decisive prerequisite to enable all human beings to freely develop their personalities in society was created in the GDR with the liberation of its people from exploitation and oppression and with the establishment of the socialist system of society. Thus, the fundamental right of the people to self-determination laid down in Articles I, paragraphs 1 of the two Covenants on economic, social and cultural rights and on civil and political rights has become a reality.

In the period under review important developments have been initiated, legal rules have been created and measures have been taken in the German Democratic Republic which are instrumental in continuously expanding the economic, social and cultural human rights, proclaimed by the United Nations and implemented in the German Democratic Republic for a long time, in accordance with the progressing development of the socialist society.

A rapidly developing socialist production, increased effectiveness of the national economy, quick scientific and technological progress, and an accelerated increase in labour productivity are the bases for the steadily rising living standard of the people and for the ever improving satisfaction of their material, spiritual and cultural needs in conformity with the task set by the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the stipulations in the 1971-1975 five-year plan.

The progress made in continuously and steadily developing the national economy, and the results achieved in fulfilling the plan made it possible to take a Joint Decision of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, of the Federal Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions and of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic on socio-political measures in implementing the main task of the five-year plan adopted at the Eighth Party Congress.

The Decision provides for:

increases in the pensions of 3.4 million citizens and improvements of social welfare;

measures to assist working mothers and young married couples and to increase the number of births;

improvement of the housing conditions of workers and employees and a better proportioning of rents for newly built flats with wages or salaries.

The realization of these measures started on 1 September 1972. Already today they are a social reality. Part II of this Report makes specific reference to them.

Another Joint Decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, of the Council of Ministers and of the Federal Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions was published on 27 September 1973. This Decision confirmed the important role of public health and social welfare and of the workers employed in these fields. The Decision is being realized with a view to increasingly meeting the citizens' need of having their health, efficiency and joy of living promoted, maintained or restored.

The Decision provides for measures

to improve the material and technical basis of public health, the production of medicaments and medical appliances and to quicken the practical application of scientific findings;

to assist all workers and employees in public health to enable them to do their work, which is of great value for society, with greater benefits for the lives and health of their patients;

to give priority to the extension of such medical facilities as provide regular services and care to citizens in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

The new social order in the German Democratic Republic, the elimination of the capitalist past which had given room to rack-rents and speculation in real estate, made it possible from the beginning to heed the demand for worthy housing for all working people: a task which can be solved only in a long time and in accordance with a plan in view of what nazi rule and war destruction left behind. Housing standards are still different, despite good results achieved in housing construction since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic and notably under the current five-year plan for 1971-1975 that started in the period under review.*

The Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany set the task to formulate the most important targets and tasks in order to solve the housing problem by 1990.

The main points of the housing programme till 1990, published in October 1973 (tenth session of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Dietz Verlag Berlin, 1973) are as follows:

Young married couples shall get a flat quickly and housing conditions shall also be systematically improved for elderly citizens;

Social and territorial differences in housing standards, which were a result of past history, shall be reduced step by step. Residential areas shall be provided with appropriate social facilities and built more aesthetically;

*/ By 31 August 1973, a total of 276,434 flats had been built or modernized, which is 55.3 per cent of the overall target. That effectively improved the housing conditions of about 900,000 citizens. As to community facilities, 79 per cent of the planned kindergarten places and 63 per cent of the planned crèche places had been provided.

Facilities for services, medical care and leisuretime activities, including physical culture and sports, in addition to children and school facilities and shopping centres, shall be built, above all in larger residential areas;

Till the next 1976-1980 plan quinquennium 750,000 new or modernized flats will be available. Out of them, 550,000 to 570,000 will be new flats and 180,000 to 200,000 will be modernized or obtained by reconstruction. That will radically improve the housing situations of about 2.1 million citizens, above all of workers' families, families with many children and young couples.

The above-mentioned developments, started in the period under review, illustrate the care of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to create the most favourable prerequisites for an ever more perfect implementation of the human rights.

II. Significant developments during the period from 1 July 1969 to 30 June 1973 with regard to the recognition, realization and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, referring where appropriate to legislative measures, administrative regulations and procedures enacted and court decisions rendered

A. The right to work

In the German Democratic Republic the right to work is inseparably linked with the working people's right to participate in the management of the working or production processes. There are various forms of such participation: during the period under review, e.g., over 141,000 working people who were members of the some 12,500 permanent production committees in the management of the production process in their factories. Among them there were nearly 40,000 women and girls. More than 39,000 young people worked on the some 5,500 youth councils of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions.

Well over 100,000 women and girls were working in the odd 13,100 women's councils in factories. In the period under review the Workers' and Farmers' Inspection committees had over 170,600 honorary staff, and nearly 200,000 working people participated in the work of the over 23,100 disputes commissions in the factories. 40 per cent of them were women or girls.

By this democratic participation of the working people in the management of production and the working process the right to work and the progressive development of this right in the social practice of the German Democratic Republic are guaranteed.

1. Right to free choice of employment

In the German Democratic Republic every citizen can, in accordance with the social conditions, fully develop his abilities and freely decide to devote his energies for the good of society and his own benefit.

Every citizen has the right to free choice of employment in conformity with social needs, personal abilities and wishes.

The right to free choice of employment is guaranteed in particular in the Labour Code of the German Democratic Republic as amended on 12 January 1968 ("Gesetzblatt" I 1968, p. 97).

The Labour Code stipulates that every citizen may, on his free decision and at any time, give notice to end his employment (chapter 31 of the Labour Code).

For women who temporarily cannot do full-time work on account of family obligations, the right to free choice of employment does not only imply the choice of the place of work but also of the working hours. (Chapter 2 of the Labour Code).

The right to free choice of employment can only be restricted by a court decision on grounds of criminal culpability (probation at the place of work, Article 34, or re-education through work, Article 42, of the Penal Code of the German Democratic Republic of 12 January 1968, "Gesetzblatt" I 1968, p. 1).

2. Right to just and favourable conditions of work

The health and fitness of the working people are maintained and promoted by health protection, industrial safety and social insurance. The managers of enterprises and the superior organs exercise this public responsibility by fully covering the requirements of health protection and industrial safety in the management and planning of production and work processes (chapter 87 and chapter 88, clause 1, of the Labour Code of the German Democratic Republic as amended on 12 January 1968, "Gesetzblatt" I 1968, p. 97 ff.).

The directors of the organs superior to the enterprises, and of the central organs are responsible for the development of health protection and industrial safety in accordance with the latest findings of science and technology. They have to co-ordinate and supervise the realization of measures and the use of funds for this purpose (chapter 1 of the Protective Labour Decree of 22 September 1962, "Gesetzblatt" II, 1962, p. 703 ff.).

The managers of enterprises are obliged to improve the working and living conditions of their workers in accordance with the stipulations of enterprise plans and to ensure the organization of work along socialist lines and industrial safety.

The industrial safety inspectorates of the trade unions, the Technical Supervision inspectorates, the public health inspectorates at enterprises, the mining offices and other institutions are entitled to supervise the observance of legal rules relating to health protection and industrial safety.

If they ascertain violations of the legal rules they can issue directions to establish the lawful state (Labour Protection Decree).

Work is organized along scientific lines in the German Democratic Republic. Enterprise managers are responsible for production and labour conditions in the firm headed by them to be brought up to the current scientific and technological standards. Such conditions shall ensure that workers be highly efficient with a minimum expenditure of energy, that interest in work and well-being at work increase, and the aesthetical feeling of workers be promoted. (Decision of the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic of 2 February 1967 on the basic orientation of work, job analysis, organization of work and labour standards as integral parts of socialist rationalization ("Gesetzblatt" II, 1967, p. 107)).

3. Right to protection against unemployment and under-employment

The right to work guarantees full employment to every citizen. The planned and proportional development of the national economy in a socialist society which is free from economic crises ensures that the jobs required for all citizens are available.

The right to work is guaranteed:

by the socialist ownership of the means of production,

by the socialist planning and management of the social process of reproduction,

by the steady and planned growth of the socialist productive forces and labour productivity,

by the consistent implementation of the scientific and technological revolution,

by the constant education and further training of citizens, and

by the uniform socialist labour legislation.

Unified manpower planning and guidance ensures full employment of all working people. There is no seasonal unemployment.

4. Right of everyone who works to just and favourable remuneration ensuring a decent living for himself and his family

Chapter 2 of the Labour Code stipulates every citizen's right to pay according to the quality and quantity of his work, and the right to equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex and age.

Socialist labour legislation serves the maximum growth of the national income and its most expedient use to the benefit of social development and for the satisfaction of the constantly growing needs of all members of the society (Labour Code chapter 1, sub-paragraph 2).

The executive staff must pay constant attention to the improvement of the working and living conditions of those working in their sphere of competence.

The provisions of the respective framework collective labour agreements ensure that the workers are paid according to output or performance (chapter 40 of the Labour Code).

These framework collective agreements are concluded between the competent trade union bodies and the central governmental and economic management bodies. They contain legal provisions about the specific working conditions and wage rates applicable in the different branches of economy, to certain groups of persons or territories (chapter 7 of the Labour Code).

Wages are the chief source of income for the working people.

There are other legal provisions to the effect that in addition to the wages bonuses are granted for outstanding collective or individual performances (chapter 39, sub-paragraph 4 of the Labour Code).

All wage increases in the German Democratic Republic fully benefit the working people, as there are no price increases for services, foodstuffs, etc.

A decent living is ensured through just and favourable remuneration and the fixing of a minimum wage.

On 1 March 1971 the minimum monthly gross wages of all full-time wage-earners and salaried personnel in enterprises and institutions of all forms of ownership were raised from 300 to 350 marks (Decree of 3 February 1971 on increasing the minimum

monthly gross wages from 300 to 350 marks and on the scaled increase of the monthly gross wages below 435 marks - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1971, p. 81).

To make sure that these wage increments would amount to a higher real wage, paragraph 9 of the Decree stipulates that the wage increases must not entail rising prices.

The socialist State implements its income policy in the framework of central national planning.

Through the national economic plans the Government sets wage and bonus plan targets for the enterprises which provide for a planned increase in wages and bonuses. The funds which are growing from year to year are used to remunerate the working people for higher performances. (Directive on the utilization of the planned wage fund for 1972 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 127 - and notification of 27 December 1972 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 862).

The legal rules concerning the bonus fund commit the enterprises to set aside funds for bonuses to be paid if they fulfil their plan targets.

In nationally-owned enterprises bonuses are mainly awarded at the end of a year. They have come to be an effective means of recognizing high collective performances and a regular addition to family budgets.

Workers have a legal right to the end-of-the-year bonus. Its amount depends on the degree of fulfilment of the work tasks (Second Decree to 21 May 1973 on the planning, forming and use of the bonus fund and of the cultural and social fund by nationally-owned enterprises - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1973, p. 293).

In 1973 3.7 million working people received end-of-the-year bonuses averaging 650 marks.

5. Right of everyone, without discrimination of any kind, to equal pay for equal work

Social conditions in the German Democratic Republic are such that all citizens can develop in their occupational careers in accordance with their abilities. Individual knowledge and skills acquired are reflected in performances. According to the socialist principle "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his work" the State assures all working people of equal chances in setting their living standard.

Irrespective of his nationality, race, philosophy or religious confession, social origin and position every citizen of the German Democratic Republic has the same rights and duties. There is no discrimination as regards the exercise of rights and duties in the work process or concerning remuneration for equal output or performance. Chapter 40, sub-paragraph 1 of the Labour Code provides that every worker has the right to equal pay for equal work irrespective of age, sex, nationality, race or religion. This provision precludes any discrimination against or injustice to individual workers.

Since the working people have the right to take part in enterprise management, they exercise direct influence on their working and living conditions and through their trade union representatives watch over correct remuneration in conformity with the legal provisions and tariff regulations. By way of wage and bonus the workers' interest in the highest possible effect of their work is ensured, the guideline being that "everything that benefits society must be advantageous to the enterprise and the individual worker as well" (Chapter 4 of the Labour Code).

The workers' right to wage payment is protected by law (chapters 58 - 60 of the Labour Code and Decree on the calculation of average earnings and wage payment as amended on 27 July 1967 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1967, p. 511).

6. Right to rest, leisure and reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay

The right to leisure and rest and to a reasonable limitation of working hours and to periodic holidays with pay is guaranteed to all citizens.

Working hours are fixed by the socialist State in accordance with the economic possibilities, harmonizing as much as possible the interests of society with the working people's personal interests (chapter 67 of the Labour Code as amended on 12 January 1968 - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1968, p. 97).

The legal weekly working time is $43 \frac{3}{4}$ or 42 hours, spread over 5 weekly working days (Decree of 3 May 1967 on the uniform five-day work week and the shortening of the weekly working time coupled with a rearrangement of the working time in some weeks with public holidays - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1967, p. 237). On 1 July 1972 the 40-hour work week was introduced for mothers with several children working full time, and the minimum holiday was increased to between 18 and 24 working days (Decree of 10 May 1972 on the introduction of the 40-hour work week and on increasing the minimum holiday for mothers having several children and working full time - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 313).

Working people who do particularly hard work or who work in conditions injurious to health are entitled to shorter working hours as laid down in legal provisions (chapter 67 of the Labour Code and Decree of 29 July 1961 on working hours and annual holiday - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1961, p. 263).

The daily working hours are interrupted by adequate breaks to give the worker time for rest. No worker may work longer than $4 \frac{1}{2}$ hours without such a break (chapter 71 of the Labour Code).

Every worker in an employment relationship is entitled to an annual holiday of at least 15 working days (Decree of 3 May 1967 on the introduction of a minimum holiday of 15 working days per calendar year - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1967, p. 253). Those who are engaged in particularly heavy or burdensome work or whose work involves particularly great responsibility are granted an additional holiday of up to 12 working days, depending on the type of work (chapter 80, sub-paragraph 2 of the Labour Code). To

make for a better recreational effect the annual holiday should be taken without interruption (chapter 85, sub-paragraph 1 of the Labour Code). Therefore, if a worker changes his place of work before taking his holiday, the subsequent employer also has to meet the worker's partial holiday claim acquired in the previous enterprise (chapter 83 of the Labour Code).

The right to rest is implemented, inter alia, with the assistance of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions. The trade unions spend much of their funds on the systematic development of recreational facilities, especially the trade union holiday service, so that the working people can enjoy their annual holiday under exemplary sanitary, cultural and social conditions to preserve their health and efficiency (chapter 79 of the Labour Code).

7. Right to form trade unions and to join the trade union of one's choice

The citizens of the German Democratic Republic enjoy freedom of association in order to realize their interests through joint action in political parties, social organizations, associations and other groups. This includes the right to unite in trade unions to safeguard their interests (chapter 5, sub-paragraph 1 of the Labour Code of the German Democratic Republic). The free trade unions of the German Democratic Republic, united in the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, have the right to look after the interests of wage-earners, salaried personnel and members of the intelligentsia by way of comprehensive co-determination in state, economy and society. Trade unions are independent. Nobody may restrict or obstruct their activities. All State organs and economic managers are bound to ensure close and trusting co-operation with the trade unions.

Membership of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions is open to any wage-earner, salaried personnel or intellectual, whether employed in industry, construction, transport and communications, trade, municipal services and crafts, agriculture and forestry, administration or some other institution (Statutes of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, Section I, paragraph 1). Accession to the various free trade unions forming the Confederation is voluntary and irrespective of political conviction and religious beliefs, nationality, citizenship and sex (Statutes of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions, basic provisions).

B. The right to social security including social insurance in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond one's control

In the German Democratic Republic social security is guaranteed. Social protection in the event of sickness, incapacitation for work, disability, old age, and of death of the bread-winner is extended in the German Democratic Republic by way of the unified social insurance scheme. The incomes of all working people of up to 600 marks a month are subject to payment of social insurance contribution. It is 20 per cent of the income and is borne by the individual and the enterprise at equal shares (Social insurance scheme of 21 December 1961 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1961, p. 533).

In the event of sickness or accident the working people and their family members are granted free medical assistance, medicaments and other medical services in kind.

In case of incapacitation for work on account of sickness the workers in an employment relationship receive for a total of 6 weeks per calendar year 90 per cent of their net income as social benefits. People earning up to 600 marks a month and those with an income of over 600 marks who have subscribed to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme receive, after these six weeks, until they can go back to work, but not longer than up to the 78th week of sickness, between 70 and 90 per cent of their net incomes, depending on how many children they have. (Chapter 104 of the Labour Code as amended on 12 January 1968 - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1968, p. 97 and Decree of 10 February 1971 on improvements of the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme and social insurance benefits in case of incapacitation for work as amended in the Second Decree of 10 May 1972 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 311). Those earning more than 600 marks a month and not subscribing to the voluntary supplementary pension insurance scheme draw sickness benefits of 50 per cent of their incomes liable to contribution from the seventh week of incapacitation onwards.

Special social protection is extended to those who are incapacitated through accidents at work or occupational diseases. Pending their full recovery or the fixing of an accident benefit, they get 90 per cent of their net incomes. The same right have those who suffer an accident while engaged in some social, cultural or sporting activity outside working hours and, as a result, are temporarily incapacitated or retain some bodily injury (Decree of 11 April 1973 on extending insurance coverage in case of accidents occurring in the performance of social, cultural or sporting activities - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1973, p. 199).

In the event of disability or old age, social protection for citizens of the German Democratic Republic is guaranteed through social insurance pensions. Women start receiving old-age pensions when they are 60 and men when they are 65 years old.

People who for 15 years or more have exercised a work subject to mandatory insurance have a right to old-age pension. As a matter of principle, they have a right to disability pension in case of their disability occurring during their occupation. The amount of the pension is determined by the number of working years and by the amount of the income liable to contribution. The minimum old-age and disability pensions, scaled according to the number of working years, are 200 to 240 marks a month (Decree of 15 March 1968 on the granting and calculation of social insurance pensions (Pension Decree) as amended in the Third Decree of 11 April 1973, "Gesetzblatt" I, 1973, p. 197).

Under the same legal provisions all women who have given birth to five or more children are entitled to old-age or disability pension of 200 marks a month irrespective of the number of working years. Citizens who were born disabled have a right to disability pension when they are 18 years old, even if they did not work.

In case of the death of the bread-winner the social insurance grants a pension to the surviving spouse. In general this pension is paid for two years after the death of the spouse irrespective of age or disability. After those two years the right to this pension continues if the beneficiary has reached the pension age or if he or she is disabled. Because of their employment most of the citizens of the German Democratic Republic have their own title to pension which, in the event of the spouse's death, is increased by a part of the survivor benefit.

In addition to pensions, allowances are paid for dependent children, and for spouses who have no title to a pension. Furthermore, old-age pensioners needing care get a nursing allowance; completely disabled persons get a special nursing allowance, and blind citizens get a special nursing allowance in addition to the allowance for the blind.

By means of voluntary insurance for an extra pension, workers having an income of more than 600 marks per month may acquire a supplementary pension title. Half of the contribution to this supplementary insurance scheme is borne by the worker or employee and the other half by the employer (Decree of 10 February 1971 concerning the improvement of the voluntary supplementary pension insurance and social insurance benefits in case of unfitness for work, as amended in the Second Decree of 10 May 1972 - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 311).

In the German Democratic Republic the old citizens have not only a pension title. They also have the right to continue employment in accordance with their abilities and wishes and without reduction of their pensions (chapter 2 of the Labour Code as amended on 12 January 1968 - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1968, p. 97). State organs and nationally owned enterprises in conjunction with trade unions and the People's Solidarity organization assure comprehensive cultural and social care for the old-age pensioners. Cultural events are organized in the veterans' clubs of the People's Solidarity organization. Old-age pensioners living alone can get warm meals at low prices in these clubs. This facility also exists in enterprise canteens for former workers who are now pensioners. The participation of pensioners in cultural events is also encouraged by reduced tickets to theatre and cinema. They are exempted from radio and television fees.

Citizens of the German Democratic Republic who have no title to social insurance pension, are unfit for work or have reached the pension age receive a social welfare benefit if they are not able to earn the living for themselves and for their dependents. This benefit is roughly equal to the minimum social insurance pension. In case the social welfare beneficiary needs special care, the same amounts of nursing allowance are added to this benefit as are added to the social insurance pension. The rates of social welfare benefits are uniform throughout the German Democratic Republic. They are not dependent on the financial strength of towns and villages (Decree on the general social welfare of 15 March 1968 as amended in the Third Decree of 11 April 1973 - "Gesetzblatt" I, 1973, p. 201). Thus the right to social care in the event of old age or invalidity is also realized for citizens who could not acquire a title to social insurance pension.

Great attention is paid in the German Democratic Republic to single working women having children. If such a woman cannot go to work because her child or children are sick, she will receive the same allowance as if she were unfit herself to go to work. The allowance is scaled according to the number of children (Decree of 3 May 1967 on the improvement of social insurance benefits to workers and employees having two or more children - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1967, p. 248 and Fifth Decree of 10 May 1972 on the improvement of social insurance benefits - "Gesetzblatt" II, 1972, p. 307).

Under the above-mentioned Fifth Decree on the improvement of social insurance benefits, single mothers who must temporarily interrupt their employment because there is no place in a crèche for their children receive, for the period of interruption (until places in a crèche are available), the same allowance as they would receive when they are unfit for work because of sickness. The minimum monthly allowance is 250 marks for one child, 300 marks for two children and 350 marks for three or more children.

C. The right to an adequate standard of living

1. Right to continuous improvement of living conditions

The right to continuous improvement of living conditions is guaranteed by way of the systematic increase of national income for all citizens of the German Democratic Republic.

In the 1966-1970 five-year plan period it rose from 84 billion marks in 1965 to 108 billion in 1970, i.e. to 129 per cent; this amounts to an annual growth rate of about 5.2 per cent. Thus the net money income of the population increased to 122 per cent in 1970 compared to 1965, and real income grew to the same figure.

In line with the principle according to which it is a primary concern of the national economy of the German Democratic Republic to constantly satisfy the material and cultural needs of citizens on a mounting scale, the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany was mainly concerned with discussing how to fulfil this task in the 1971-1975 five-year plan period.

In the Directive on the 1971-1975 five-year plan adopted on this occasion the general line for the development of the national economy during this period was defined. It provides, among other things, for an increase in national income to between 126 and 128 per cent by 1975 as against 1970 with real income growing to between 121 and 123 per cent.

2. Right to adequate food

The right of the citizens of the German Democratic Republic to adequate food was not only safeguarded by the fact that during the period under review just as before, the population was sufficiently supplied with foodstuffs at stable prices, but also

by the fact that this supply was steadily improved and broadened according to plan. Thus in 1973, as in the preceding years, retail trade turnover in food and luxury food increased by 3.4 per cent on 1972, or 1.3 billion marks. Thus the supply of meat and meat products increased by 2 per cent, poultry by 31 per cent, full-cream drinking milk by 4 per cent, fat cheese by 5 per cent and of tropical fruit by 15 per cent. This was achieved on account of increased yields in animal husbandry and plant production. In 1973 e.g. the supply with slaughter cattle rose to 105.3 per cent, milk to 104.1 per cent and eggs to 104.8 per cent as against 1972. Furthermore, special attention was attached to healthy food and the range of low-calory foodstuffs such as butter with reduced fat content, low-calory cakes and pastries was increased to 140 varieties.

3. Right to adequate clothing and housing

As can be concluded from the increase in the retail trade turnover in manufactured goods by 8.9 per cent in 1973 on 1972, larger quantities of clothing were also made available that year to the people of the German Democratic Republic. Thus, in 1973, 28 per cent more underwear, 32 per cent more ladies' outer garments and 23 per cent more leather shoes than in 1972 were manufactured.

The construction and maintenance of housing are items of each annual economic plan, for which an ever increasing part of the national income is set aside. Hence, the Directive on the 1971-1975 five-year plan stipulates that in that period 500,000 flats are to be built. To cope with this task, not only the necessary funds were allocated, but provisions were also made for a corresponding growth of the building and building materials industries, and for training the skilled personnel required. Thus, housing construction is to grow in 1975 to between 160 and 162 per cent on 1970, and that of the building materials industry to between 134 and 136 per cent.

In 1973 the housing conditions for more than 375,000 citizens were improved by the construction, modification and improvement of 125,818 flats. 80,725 flats and 5,181 separate homes were newly built. The latter were allocated especially to large families while 60 per cent of the flats went to working-class families.

4. Right to necessary social services

Concerning social services the Directive of the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on the five-year plan for the development of the national economy from 1971 to 1975 stipulates that, beside the extension of existing facilities everywhere, schools, nursery schools and crèches etc. must be built along with the housing units, especially in new residential areas. In 1973, 13,300 crèche places and 25,610 nursery school places were added. Thus, 77 per cent of the children of pre-school age are at present cared for at nursery schools - an increase of 4 per cent on 1972.

- D. The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
1. Reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality, and the healthy development of the child

To reduce the stillbirth-rate, infant and child mortality and to ensure the healthy development of children, the Law on the protection of mother and child and on the rights of women adopted as long ago as 27 September 1950 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 111, p.1037) provided for prenatal and postnatal advisory centres, recreation homes for pregnant women, and paediatric divisions at policlinics and hospitals.

1.1. 1,980 prenatal advisory centres are available for pregnant women. All pregnant women, without exception, are cared for in these centres by medical specialists, midwives and social workers.

The first examination is at the end of the 16th week of pregnancy at the latest. There are altogether 5 such examinations; but most women come every month for examination.

To ensure registration of and care for expectant mothers at an early stage by the advisory centres, they are entitled to financial benefits.

Paid pregnancy and maternity leave for pregnant women and mothers going out to work totals 18 weeks (6 weeks before and 12 weeks after giving birth). In case of a complicated delivery this time is prolonged by 2 weeks.

1.2. Ninety-nine per cent of all deliveries take place in obstetrical departments. Clinical obstetrics is practised exclusively by gynaecologists and obstetricians. It is free of charge for all women.

The Government grants monetary allowances at childbirth.

Women prone to give birth prematurely are in good time before delivery admitted to maternity hospitals with a ward for prematurely born babies. Prematurely born children weighing less than 2 00 grammes (and such babies weighing over 2 000 grammes if they are born with defects) are taken to a centre for prematurely born children.

1.3. For the prophylactic care of sucklings and infants up to their completed third year of age 10,203 postnatal advisory centres are available. During the first few days after their discharge from the newborns department doctors visit them in their homes. Medical specialists and social workers look after them. In the first six months of their lives all sucklings are examined by a physician every month, in their second half-year once in 6 weeks, in their second year once every three months and in their third year they have one examination.

Inoculations also take place at the postnatal advisory centres on the basis of a new compulsory immunization schedule.

1.4. Medical care by a paediatrician is part of the generally available medical services. Thus every district hospital has a paediatrics department headed by a specialist. In the field of outpatient medical care the paediatrician also makes house calls.

In his area he is responsible for the prophylactic care of all children up to the age of three or six. At the same time he looks after crèches and children's homes admitting children up to three years of age.

1.5. Since 1957 expert commissions at district and county level have been particularly concerned with problems of stillbirths, infant mortality and their reduction. Every stillbirth, every single death is investigated by members of these commissions (paediatricians, gynaecologists, pathologists, social workers, midwives) to establish whether it could have been avoided. From this analysis which covers the medical, social and the family aspects, conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made to district and county medical officers on how to improve medical care.

1.6. Healthy development of the child

The manifold social and medical measures of health protection include the provision of the best possible food for babies and infants.

At present more than 20,000 tons of ready-to-eat baby food essentially composed of milk, fruit and vegetables, and about 6,000 tons of ready-to-drink juices are annually provided for babies and infants. Thus, in the German Democratic Republic more than 60 per cent of the total calory requirements of babies in their first year are met from industrially produced food. In line with its pricing policy the Government of the German Democratic Republic subsidizes baby and infant food which is therefore offered at reasonable prices.

2. The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene

In the German Democratic Republic nature and its resources serve the people.

In the German Democratic Republic the protection of nature, the rational use and the protection of the soil, the purity of the water and the air, the protection of flora and fauna and of the natural amenities have been declared an obligation of the State and society and moreover the concern of every citizen.

To give substance to this principle, the Act on the Systematic Implementation of Socialist Environmental Policy in the German Democratic Republic (National Environmental Policy Act) was adopted by the People's Chamber on 14 May 1970. The medical aspects of environmental protection in the German Democratic Republic are the concern of the organs of the State Hygiene Inspectorate. By means of appropriate controls these organs ensure:

1. Communal hygiene, especially concerning water supply, waste water and garbage disposal;

2. The observance of hygienic standards in the construction and operation of buildings and other establishments serving to accommodate people and designed above all for the care of their health and well-being;

3. Hygiene in the building trade, especially with regard to town planning, settlements, schools and bathing facilities.

2.1. Water as an environmental factor

Due to its geographical conditions and economic growth the German Democratic Republic is among the industrial countries with a most severely strained water household and a high utilization degree of the available water resources. In a socialist State with an advanced industry and agriculture it is absolutely necessary for the health of its citizens and its continuous economic development to submit the surface-water quality to a system of controls and to protect ground-water against pollution. A comprehensive set of binding principles government the utilization and protection of water resources were adopted in the German Democratic Republic in 1963 through the Law on Water Resources of 17 April 1963 ("Gesetzblatt" I No. 12, p. 67), which have since been supplemented and specified by executive orders and numerous special directives.

2.2. Drinking water supply and protection of water production

To ensure the supply of the population with hygienic drinking water, drinking water quality standards came into force in the German Democratic Republic on 1 January 1973.

Binding regulations have been issued for the handling of noxious substances in the water like fertilizers, agricultural waste waters and mineral oils.

2.3. Drinking water fluoridation

In 1959 drinking water fluoridation was first introduced in the county capital of Karl-Marx-Stadt to serve as a model. Following the evaluation of this analysis (caries decline in 6 to 10 year-old children after an eight-year period of fluoridation between 60 and 70 per cent) and international recommendations, the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic decided in 1972 to apply drinking water fluoridation as the currently most effective prophylactic measure to combat caries on a large scale. At present more than one million inhabitants are supplied with fluoride-enriched drinking water. This programme is being continued according to plan. The methods applied are the sodium silico-fluoride, the sodium fluoride and the hydrosilicofluoric acid processes.

2.4. Air as an environmental factor

In line with the continuous economic development, air pollution control serves the purpose of preserving human health, improving the working and living conditions and protecting the flora and fauna, and other public and personal property. Enterprises, combines cooperatives and other establishments are liable to reduce air pollutants and their discharge and to diminish, where air pollution is still unavoidable, its harmful effects by means of suitable measures. For air pollutants affecting the

environment, permissible maximum concentrations which according to the latest findings in medical science and technology are not likely to have harmful effects on the human organism have been bindingly set as pollutant release limits.

2.5. The county hygiene inspectorates watch over the observance of the pollutant release limits by establishing and operating measurement points and measurement networks in the area.

2.6. Emission control

Emitters are obliged to operate their own emission controls. In this they are supervised by the county hygiene inspectorates. The latter set pollutant release limits which are binding on the emitters.

These limits include index figures (maximum pollutant load - MEK) for the permissible concentration of noxious substances in exhaust gas and standards for an adequate degree of rarefaction to be achieved by means of minimum chimney heights, the imposition of time-limits on the operation of plants and stipulations on the use of certain fuels.

2.7. Protection against noise at communal level

In implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act the fourth executive decree was issued on 14 May 1970. According to this decree the executive organs of State and economy, enterprises, institutions and citizens have to ensure that the health of working people is not affected by noise. At the same time limits for the emission of noise were set. These limits are scaled depending on whether they are for health resorts, recreational, residential or industrial areas. If these limits are exceeded the enterprises and other establishments responsible for this have to work out plans providing for a gradual noise reduction. For particularly affected areas noise maps are drawn up helping local councils to determine the location of new construction sites and by-passes.

To make traffic noise less of a nuisance traffic restrictions have been imposed by local councils and parking lots moved to the outskirts of spas and health resorts. The building industry has developed sound-insulated windows for housing projects and public buildings which help to reduce noise in residential areas with high noise levels.

The government supervisory organs concerned with the licensing of new machines and vehicles are responsible for noise levels to form part of the quality standards.

2.8. Soil as an environmental factor

The large-scale use of chemicals in agriculture and the breeding of slaughter cattle by industrial methods put a heavier strain on subsoil and surface waters than before. With regard to foodstuffs the Minister of Health has established maximum limits for harmful chemical agents. Urban garbage is dumped on organized dumping sites and burnt in refuse incinerators. To establish new unorganized dumping sites is not permitted. Municipal and community councils are required to take measures to improve the sanitary conditions of existing dumping sites.

2.9. Foodstuff hygiene

The concern of the socialist State to do everything for the people, for the preservation of their health and for their increasing well-being is particularly evident from its controlling measures in the field of foodstuff hygiene.

2.9.1. The organization of food control

The Law on the handling of foodstuffs and consumer goods (Foodstuffs Law) of 30 November 1962 ("Gesetzblatt" I, page 111) provides a legal basis in this field adequate to a socialist State.

The Foodstuffs Law is a skeleton law. It stipulates in §1 that the economic organs are responsible for ensuring the unobjectionable quality of foodstuffs by current health standards, but that the supervisory organs of the State have to render them effective support.

In handling foodstuffs the following rules apply:

Foodstuffs consumed for the intended purpose must not involve any risk to human health;

Foodstuffs must not be contaminated by foreign substances, rotten or otherwise unhygienic;

The raw material used has to be of a marketable quality and must not, in any case, have passed through unhygienic stages.

Under the official food control programme in recent years on an average 14 spot checks and 10.5 chemico-analytical checks per 1,000 inhabitants and per year were carried out.

The Foodstuffs Law is supplemented by 5 executive orders. Apart from these provisions there are specific sanitary norms for the various special branches fixing quality standards for individual foodstuffs.

On the basis of legal rules there are strict controls of foodstuffs, covering raw materials, production, trade and sale.

The production of vegetable and animal foodstuffs and their quality is greatly influenced by the environmental conditions prevailing during growth, harvesting and processing. Through processing technologies and techniques to preserve, change or improve the natural properties of foodstuffs the latter are exposed to other environmental factors. To protect the people from the effects of foreign substances through foodstuffs is therefore a primary concern of environmental control measures.

2.9.2. Prevention of the spread of diseases through foodstuffs

To this end purposeful measures have been laid down which are to ensure that foodstuffs are handled in such a way as to conform to high qualitative standards and meet hygienic requirements.

These measures are based on the Foodstuffs Law of 30 November 1962, the Law on the prevention and control of communicable human diseases of 20 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, p. 29) and on the Law on veterinary medicine of 20 June 1962 ("Gesetzblatt" I, p. 55). By making the directors of the enterprises responsible for organizing the supervision of hygienic conditions within the enterprise, by grouping enterprises on the basis of technical and sanitary conditions into three categories, and by holding annual staff courses on matters of hygiene, the basis was laid to ensure compliance with hygienic requirements in handling foodstuffs. (First Executive Order of 30 April 1963 on the Foodstuffs Law, "Gesetzblatt" II, p. 278). Enterprises which do not guarantee the production of unobjectionable foodstuffs in hygienically adequate conditions on account of the nature and state of their equipment and fixtures, are subject to systematical and specific controls. The annual schooling of the staff serves their further qualification and is based on a syllabus which is newly fixed each year and whose content derives from the hygienic problems of the past year.

Those occupied with the handling of foodstuffs are required to meet certain hygienic standards as laid down in the Sixth Executive Order of 24 November 1969 on the Foodstuffs Law ("Gesetzblatt" II, p. 599). This ensures that only such workers are employed whose state of health excludes the spread of pathogenic agents through foodstuffs.

The Government has initiated the following measures to reverse the unfavourable trend of people putting on overweight and to reduce the attendant increased risk of falling ill (with cardiac, circulatory and metabolic diseases):

It has intensified educational activities in the form of courses of instruction and further education for workers, university and technical-school graduates, especially physicians and plant physicians to constantly publicize healthy nutrition among people of all walks of life;

It has broadened the range of foodstuffs by adding food of reduced caloric value, thus enabling the people to choose a proper diet. Great efforts are being made to develop and use fat and sugar substitutes;

It has introduced, in the framework of foodstuffs labelling, a consumer information programme about the ingredients of foodstuffs, of school and factory meals and of restaurant meals, which has a favourable effect on the trend towards healthful nutrition.

2.10. School and factory meals

In the German Democratic Republic hot meals are provided daily for more than 4.5 million persons at enterprises, schools, nursery schools, crèches etc. Government and enterprises allocate considerable funds for this purpose, so that frequently full-course mid-day meals are provided at low cost.

The number of persons to be catered for is increasing since, on account of continuous qualitative improvements, ever more working people and pupils take these meals.

Simultaneously there is an increasing demand for qualified staff. However, the economic situation is such that in many cases personnel have to be employed who are not or but inadequately trained. Therefore, the public health authorities organize comprehensive courses on hygiene. In 1972 alone more than 30,000 staff members of the catering trade were instructed on matters of hygiene in 960 courses.

Another fact showing that special importance is attached to improving the public catering system is the requirement that all diseases caused by foodstuffs are subject to special registration. In many cases it was possible, following instances of such mostly harmless gastro-intestinal diseases, to abolish faulty practices through specific measures.

3. Prevention, treatment and supervision of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases

3.1. Legal foundations of health protection and labour safety in the German Democratic Republic in the light of the influence of instruments of the United Nations and its organs and specialized agencies

All relevant documents, laws and measures adopted in the German Democratic Republic proceed from the World Health Organization's definition of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. Current legal rules on labour law, social insurance, public health and social welfare are very extensive.

The directors of enterprises are responsible for the observance of health protection and labour safety regulations. The Labour Code stipulates in § 88 that they must see to it that all requirements of health protection and labour safety are taken into account in the management and planning of production, research and development. Enterprise directors are responsible for workshops, installations, facilities and means of work to be so planned, designed, manufactured, maintained and kept in repair as to guarantee a high degree of safety and largely reduce heavy physical labour or work injurious to health (§ 91 of the Labour Code). Workers must be issued with protective clothing and safety equipment free of charge. Working people doing particularly heavy work or working in conditions injurious to health are guaranteed shorter working hours and additional holidays depending on the nature of their work (§ 67 and 80).

Workers expected to perform heavy physical labour or work injurious to health must first be examined whether they are physically fit for it and are subject to periodic medical check-ups while performing such work. If, as a result of such systematic pre-employment examinations or re-examinations, a worker is found to be physically unfit for a job, he must be given another occupation according to his skills and physical fitness. In case of temporarily reduced fitness for work as a result of a previous disease or for purposes of preventive health protection the worker must be temporarily assigned to some other work (light work) on the basis of a medical certificate.

If a worker suffers an on-the-job accident or contracts an occupational disease, he is entitled to comprehensive financial support under § 98 and 102 of the Labour Code. The advancement of working women, special protection for working mothers and the working youth are regulated in numerous provisions.

3.2. The enterprise health service

The enterprise health service comes under the competence of the Ministry of Health and the authorities sub-ordinate to it. The plant physician belongs to the public health staff and is thus not subordinated to the enterprise director.

Health protection in the enterprise forms part of the overall health protection and labour safety system and includes:

supervision of the quality of protection and of the observance of ergonomic principles in shaping the means of work, working methods and conditions as part of the tasks of organizing work along scientific lines;

making use of medical, psychological, technological and sociological findings for a healthful industrial environment and for awakening all working people to an awareness of safety and health requirements;

combining basic and specialized medical care by way of prophylaxis, therapy, expert medical opinion, rehabilitation and metaphylaxis with the hygienic supervision of enterprises and special attendance from the point of view of industrial medicine.

3.5. Comparison of legal rules valid in the German Democratic Republic with international recommendations with special emphasis on chemical and physical environmental factors of the place of work

The documents of the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies are constantly evaluated in the German Democratic Republic.

In this connexion, relevant information from the WHO and the ILO are of particular interest to plant physicians, safety inspectors, labour safety and trade union officers. Thus the standard reached in the German Democratic Republic is constantly reviewed in the light of relevant international agreements, guiding principles and recommendations.

Individual factors of the industrial environment are covered by the following legal provisions:

Toxic substances in the air

To protect the working people at their places of work from the injurious effects to toxic substances in the air, standards determining the maximum permissible pollution loads for 177 such substances at the place of work were elaborated. There are also special-branch standards prescribing in what way these loads have to be determined.

The recommendation No. 415 of the ILO/WHO relating to 26 toxic substances has been taken into account.

The labelling of solvents and diluents and of products containing solvents and diluents is covered by a labour safety ordinance.

Another labour safety ordinance covers the labour hygienic requirements concerning the interior painting of buildings.

Non-toxic kinds of dust

Concerning non-toxic dusts in air at the place of work, the TGL 22,311 standard classifies them according to their quartz contents. At present dust concentration is measured with the konimeter. Additionally, a two-phase gravimetric method of measurement is under preparation and will be introduced during the next few years. Moreover, labour safety regulation No. 622/2 regarding prevention of respiratory diseases by non-toxic dusts (Dust Decree) of 13 May 1969 and regulation No. 73/1 concerning respiratory protection apparatus of 22 March 1967 are binding in the German Democratic Republic. The WHO recommendations concerning ways of defining and classifying pneumoconioses elaborated at international meetings have been accepted in the German Democratic Republic.

Noise

The TGL 10,687/02 standard concerning permissible noise levels (issue of June 1970) sets noise limits admissible at the place of work, in living quarters, public buildings and means of transport, and for neighbourhood noise, and provides for the determination of the corresponding permanent sound level and noise evaluation.

Sound control standards in the German Democratic Republic are based on recommendation RS 263-67 of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance paying due regard to relevant ISO documents. ILO recommendation No. 141 providing for the control of noise injurious to health in living quarters and workrooms aboard ships was accepted by the German Democratic Republic.

Atmospheric conditions at the place of work

The TGL 22,313 standard, issue of 1971, regulates optimum and permissible climatic conditions at the place of work. The permissible and optimum values of air temperature, relative atmospheric humidity and air speed are fixed according to the heaviness of the work. This standard applies to the construction of new workrooms. As far as existing workrooms are concerned, a directive on methods of evaluating atmospheric conditions at the place of work additionally recommends the marking of climatic divisions, their mutual demarcation and the organized rotation of operations in extreme climatic conditions.

In the TGL 22,313 standard allowance has been made for recommendation No. 140 of the ILO referring to ships of 1,000 gross register tons and more.

Exposure to high frequency and microwaves

To protect the working people from exposure to microwaves the TGL 22,314/01 standard, issue of 1972, applies in the German Democratic Republic for high frequency fields and laser are being prepared.

Ionizing rays

The protection from ionizing rays is regulated by the Radiation Protection Ordinance of 26 November 1969 ("Gesetzblatt" II, No. 99, p. 627). It defines the maximum permissible radiation dose and the maximum values for limiting the interior

radiation dose from radionucleides at the place of work. Other binding labour safety regulations are No. 980 concerning the operation of x-ray installations, No. 981 regarding the handling of sealed radiation sources, and No. 982 about the handling of unsealed radiation sources, all dated 22 January 1971.

Lighting

As regards lighting the TGL 200/0617 standards are applicable to artificial light.

Plant physicians carry out prophylactic examinations prior to employment and periodic check-ups to determine fitness and to detect at an early stage beginning occupational and non-occupational diseases on the following groups of working people:

pregnant women
young people
working people exposed to detrimental chemical or physical effects
workers doing heavy physical work.

Moreover, there are special directives for pre-employment examinations in the mining industry, for transport workers and for occupationally exposed personnel, while some 90 labour safety ordinances provide instructions for medical supervision and fitness assessments covering a great variety of occupations, types of exposure and risks. Out-patient care is prescribed for a number of exposed groups. There are special regulations for the protection of young people and women. The occupations or types of exposure from which women, pregnant women and nursing mothers and young people are barred are exactly defined.

3.4. Combatting occupational diseases

Special attention is paid in the German Democratic Republic to the identification and control of occupational diseases. Every physician and every enterprise is obliged to report every instance or suspected occurrence of an occupational disease to competent public health authority. The responsible trade union social security administration recognizes an occupational disease on the basis of medical opinions and work-hygienic analyses.

If a change of job necessitated by the risk of an occupational disease arising or aggravating involves a reduction in wages, a wage adjustment (the difference between the new and the previous wage) is paid for a maximum period of 2 years. The terms of reference for the registration and recognition of an occupational disease are the register of occupational diseases, liable to compensation, which at present lists 41 types.

Internationally, a minimum nomenclature containing 15 occupational diseases is commonly applied. Apart from short-term benefits in case of disablement (see section B), a pension is paid if physical capacity is diminished by at least 25 per cent.

Convention No. 121 on benefits in case of industrial accidents and occupational diseases adopted by the 48th ILO Conference on 8 July 1964.

Seriously disabled persons in the German Democratic Republic may take an employment in accordance with their degree of ability. Therefore, the occupational rehabilitation of disabled persons, regardless of the cause or development of the disease, figures prominently in industrial medical care. Apart from light work as provided for in § 95 of the Labour Code, there are many other possibilities of rehabilitation at the disposal of enterprises, under Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2 on granting the right to work to persons in the process of rehabilitation of 26 August 1969, "Gesetzblatt" II, p. 470 and of 4 October 1973, "Gesetzblatt" I, No. 48, and Convention No. 130 on medical care and sickness benefits 1969, 53rd General Conference of ILO, 25 June 1969.

3.5. Prevention, treatment and supervision of infectious diseases

All measures to prevent and combat communicable diseases in the German Democratic Republic are based on the Law on the prevention and control of communicable human diseases of 20 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, 1966, No. 3 p.29), which says in its preamble:

"In the socialist society the all-round prevention of communicable diseases and their control is a priority task in the development of a comprehensive system of health protection. Communicable diseases may involve grave risks and serious detriment to individuals and the population as a whole. In accordance with their statutory obligations the heads of all governmental and economic bodies, the directors of enterprises and institutions and the executives of production co-operatives are responsible for an effective prevention, control and elimination of communicable diseases in their fields of competence."

Main emphasis is on the all-round prevention of communicable diseases.

On the basis of the Law on the prevention and control of communicable human diseases the German Democratic Republic succeeded in further reducing the morbidity of infectious diseases in a large measure. Special mention should be made of the continued reduction of the once wide-spread disease of tuberculosis as a result of integrated measures in prophylaxis, control and rehabilitation. In 1969, there were still 10,695 new cases of tuberculosis in the German Democratic Republic, amongst them 137 of children; in 1972, the number dropped to a total of 8,541 new instances, including only 68 cases among children.

The steady decreases of typhoid and para-typhoid, the severest infectious intestinal diseases, continued also over the past four years. 264 cases of typhoid and 94 cases of paratyphoid were registered in 1969. The number dropped to a mere 170 cases of typhoid and 68 cases of paratyphoid in 1972.

The prophylactic use of protective immunization and other protective measures are principal methods to prevent infectious diseases. While poliomyelitis was completely eradicated by 1962, the following infectious diseases continued to be decisively reduced during the last four years:

From 1969 to 1972 there have been no more cases of tetanus in children and young people. In 1973 there were 3 cases of diphtheria, while in 1969 there had been 13 compared to 96,573 registered cases in 1946. Whooping cough fell from

8,289 to 1,043 instances during these four years. Measles have been almost completely eliminated. Before introducing compulsory immunization, for instance, in 1964 94,567 cases of measles were recorded, in 1969 the number had gone down to 25,332, and by 1972 only 566 children contracted that disease.

These effective immunizations, including that against tuberculosis, are compulsory in the German Democratic Republic in the interest of both the individual and society. The State assumes full liability for any injuries that may in rare cases arise from immunizations or other protective measures.

4. Creation of conditions which assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness

4.1. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the planning, management and organization of public health and social services, medical and social care and medical research which are financed from the State budget.

According to ordinances and instructions issued by the Ministry of Health the underlying principle of medical care is the unity of prophylaxis, diagnosis, therapy and rehabilitation and the application of new findings made in these fields to the benefit of all citizens, irrespective of time and place.

For the 17 million population of the German Democratic Republic there are:

980 prenatal advisory centres
10,203 postnatal advisory centres
212 marriage, family and sexual advisory centres
485 polyclinics
860 outpatient centres
942 rural and urban outpatient departments
5,167 medical and dental practices
1,480 State medical practices
109.2 hospital beds are available per 10,000 population
In 1965 there was one medical doctor to every 800 persons,
in 1972 there was one to every 550

4.2. All economic branches bear their share of responsibility in fulfilling the statutory tasks of health protection, priority being given to periodic prophylactic examinations, screening tests, healthful working and living conditions and health education. (Law on the local elected bodies and their organs in the German Democratic Republic of 12 July 1973, "Gesetzblatt" I, No. 32).

4.3. Specialists for general medicine and paediatrics, for gynaecology, internal medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, urology, psychiatry/neurology and otorhinolaryngology work full time in the field of ambulant general care.

Apart from general medical care polyclinics are also concerned with specialized diagnosis and therapy. There are special centres for the early and follow-up care of cardio-circulatory diseases, tumours, neurological-psychiatric and nephrological diseases and for diabetes and rheumatism.

4.4. Hospitals of varying capacity (district and county hospitals and university clinics) are available for hospital treatment. According to the skeleton regulations for hospitals of 5 November 1954, "Gesetzblatt" No. 97, all district hospitals are required to have at least four special divisions (paediatrics, gynaecology/obstetrics, internal medicine, surgery).

At selected county hospitals and university clinics centres for highly specialized diagnosis and therapy in the fields of transplantation surgery, cardiosurgery and vasosurgery, neurosurgery, traumatology, nuclear medicine and tropical medicine have been set up.

A network of centres for the early and follow-up care of specific diseases spreads over the entire territory of the German Democratic Republic.

4.5. Beside the health protection for mothers, children and young people and for the working people (health service in enterprises, industrial medicine), especially medical care for the aged is being further improved. Uniform provisions for that are contained in a basic document of the Ministry of Health of 19 February 1973.

The plan for the further improvement of medical and social care is outlined in a Decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Executive of the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions dated 25 September 1973.

E. The right of the family, motherhood and childhood to protection and assistance

1. Right of the family to protection and assistance

1.1 Family policy in the German Democratic Republic is part and parcel of State policy. Its objective is to make the interests of the individual citizen concur with those of society. It is aimed at promoting and supporting such relations of the citizens in marriage and family as are conducive to the needs of the people for happy and harmonious relations and for the development of their personality.

According to the Family Code marriage, family and motherhood are under the special protection of the State. Every citizen of the German Democratic Republic has the right to respect for, protection and promotion of his marriage and family.

It is the right and supreme duty of parents to educate their children to become healthy, happy, competent and universally educated and patriotic citizens. Parents bear the main responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have the right to a close and trustful co-operation with the State and social educational institutions. In their educational activity parents are assisted by effective paedagogical aids, such as parents' seminars, parents meetings at school, the "Elternhaus und Schule" periodical, and special paedagogical literature for parents.

Women have equal rights and enjoy special protection and special care by the State during motherhood. These basic rights of women were laid down in detail in the Law on the Protection of Mother and Child and the Rights of Women of 27 September 1950 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 111, p. 1037) and in several other legal provisions, such as the Labour Code and the Family Code of 20 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 1/1966, p. 1).

Implementing equal rights for women the Government of the German Democratic Republic acts in agreement with Article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of the Discrimination against Women of 7 November 1967.

1.2 Measures to promote families

Since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic the development of families and children has been promoted and protected by laws and, in particular, by the socio-political programme adopted by the Eighth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany in 1971.

This is reflected, above all, by the following provisions:

State grants for children

In the German Democratic Republic a children's grant is paid by the Government, scaled according to the number of children to be maintained. In addition, working people having children are granted tax reductions. Following are the legal provisions for the State grant for children:

- Decree on the Payment of a State Grant for Children, of 28 May 1958 ("Gesetzblatt" I, p. 437)
- Decree on the Granting of a State Grant for Children to Families Having four or more Children, of 3 May 1967 ("Gesetzblatt" II, p. 248)
- Decree of the Further Increase of the State Grant for Children of 27 August 1967 ("Gesetzblatt" II, p. 485).

Special measures for families having three or more children

Implementing the Decree of 3 May 1967 on Improving the Living Conditions of Families Having four or more Children by providing them with appropriate accommodation and granting rent allowances and other subsidies ("Gesetzblatt" II, No. 38, p. 249), during the last few years almost all families with four or more children, living in insufficient housing conditions, were provided with appropriate housing. Some local councils can now provide appropriate housing at short notice even to all families with three children.

In accordance with the Decree on Improving the Housing Conditions of Workers, Employees and Co-operative Farmers ("Gesetzblatt II, No. 27, p. 318), issued on 10 May 1972 within the framework of socio-political measures, flats - in particular new ones - are allocated first of all to workers, employees and families having three or more children. At the same time, conditions have been created for all families with children who get a new flat, to be in a position to pay their rent. Measures to this effect are

1. Low rents:

By the above-mentioned Decree of 10 May 1972 rents and housing costs to be paid for nationally-owned new flats and flats of Workers' Building Co-operatives built after 1 January 1967 or in future have been reduced for workers, employees, students, co-operative farmers, old age pensioners etc. having an average monthly family income up to 2,000 marks. Rents for older flats are lower as a rule.

2. Rent allowances:

Low-income families having four or more children are granted rent allowances (including subsidies for heating, hot water etc.) according to social requirement.

The legal basis for such allowances is the Decree on Improving the Living Conditions of Families Having four or more Children of 3 May 1967 ("Gesetzblatt", II, No. 38, p. 249), according to which such families may, on application, also be granted subsidies benefitting their children and appropriated for the initial purchase of furniture, beds, bed-linen and similar things as well as for the reimbursement of removal expenses, including a non-recurring allowance for children entering school.

In addition, local councils have, on the basis of their own decisions, taken measures to support families with four or more children, such as special shopping and service privileges, free distribution of milk for their children at school etc.

Financial assistance by the State for physically and mentally handicapped children

Within the framework of the comprehensive socio-political measures taken in 1972 and 1973 special attention has been paid to granting more government assistance to families with physically or mentally handicapped children.

Under the Decree on the Further Improvement of Social Welfare Benefits of 11 April 1973 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 22, p. 201) families with one child needing care are entitled to a monthly nursing allowance scaled according to how badly they need care and according to the parents' income. For certain groups of severely handicapped persons a special nursing allowance or an allowance for the blind is granted independent of the income. This category of persons has been extended as of 1 July 1973. Furthermore it is of importance that also children with a severe mental handicap have been included in this category.

2. The right of mothers to special care and assistance including the provision of child care facilities adequate to permit women to pursue careers

These rights have been laid down, above all, in the 1950 Law on the Protection of Mother and Child and the Rights of Women ("Gesetzblatt" No. 111, p. 1037) and the relevant executive orders, in the Family Code of 20 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 1/1966), in the Labour Code ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 15/1966) and the decrees on the increase of State childbirth grants and the extension of maternity leave, on the granting of loans at favourable terms to young couples and on improving housing conditions for workers, employees and co-operative farmers of 20 May 1972 ("Gesetzblatt" II, No. 27, p. 314).

Men and women enjoy equal rights and have the same legal status in all spheres of social, State and personal life. The promotion of women, particularly with regard to vocational qualification, is a task of society and the State. It is an essential prerequisite for the equal participation of young women and mothers in social life, for pursuing a career and developing their personality that child care facilities be set up where the children of working mothers are educated and looked after.

For years the setting up of child care facilities has been included in the national economic plans of the German Democratic Republic as a task of the State to increasingly satisfy the wish of women to pursue a career and to ensure that their children be educated and looked after in the best possible way. Thus, a steady development has been achieved.

There are the following types of crèches for children under 3 years of age:

day-time and weekly crèches
residential homes for infants and toddlers
seasonal crèches.

The Decree on the Tasks and Structure of Crèches and Infant Homes as Facilities of the Health Service of 6 August 1953 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 91, p. 922) stipulated that crèches and residential homes for infants and toddlers are controlled by the public health services to guarantee a permanent medical supervision of the children.

Enterprises employing a high percentage of women are obliged by this Decree to allot money for the construction of crèches within the framework of the national economic plans or to build such facilities themselves. The number of places available in crèches in the German Democratic Republic has risen as follows:

	Places per 100 children under 3 years of age
1955	80
1965	165
1970	256
1972	304

In the years to come an annual increase of 10,000 to 12,000 places in crèches is envisaged. It is, however, not yet possible to satisfy the demand for places in crèches, particularly in the cities and in industrial centres; for this reason and in the interest of improving the education and care of children and of promoting working mothers, a decree was issued on 22 March 1973 ("Gesetzblatt I", No. 20, p. 181) on the

admission of infants and toddlers to crèches and residential homes. In its principles it corresponds to the social requirements of working or student mothers. Under this decree the local councils in towns, boroughs and villages are responsible for allotting places for infants and toddlers in all municipal and factory crèches. Furthermore this decree provides for the allotment of places in crèches above all to children of mothers working full time and of mothers studying or undergoing vocational training. Here, special consideration is given to children of single persons, apprentices, students, of families having several children and such families supported by the mother alone.

In the Law on the Integrated Socialist Educational System of 25 February 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 6, p. 83) the crèches are called the first stage of the educational system of the German Democratic Republic. Crèches mainly look after children between 12 weeks and 3 years of age whose mothers are working or studying, and close contacts are maintained between the crèches and the families. The tasks in shaping the life of the children have been laid down in detail in the Decree on the Tasks and the Operation of Crèches and Residential Homes for Infants and Toddlers of 25 July 1973 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 36, p. 381).

What matters is

to educate and train the children so as to guarantee an all-round and harmonious development of their personality;

to protect and promote their health so as to increase their resistance and capacities;

to create an environment adequate to the needs of infants and toddlers and to the peculiarities of that age group, that being an important prerequisite for their healthy physical and mental development.

Specialized personnel - nurses for crèches - are trained at medical schools for the education, supervision and care of children and from September 1974 onwards at technical schools.

Pediatricians or physicians experienced in medical supervision of children are responsible for the medical supervision of the children. Their duties have been laid down in binding rules on the work of physicians in crèches and residential homes applying to the whole country. The Ordinance on the Prevention and Control of Contagious Diseases in Child Care Facilities of 13 January 1970 provides for measures aimed at preventing the occurrence and spreading of contagious diseases in these facilities. Most of the new crèches are built under the government housing programme. Government authorities and scientific institutes prepare standard designs for the building of pre-school educational institutions according to the latest findings of medicine and pedagogics and the requirements of construction and equipment.

The basic equipment of crèches in the German Democratic Republic is provided for by a basic equipment plan approved and declared as binding by the Ministry of Health.

In crèches and residential homes parents only have to pay the cost of foodstuff for their children. Children in residential homes and weekly crèches receive all meals there.

Kindergartens, where children between 3 and 6 are admitted, besides attending to and caring for the children's all-round harmonious development, provide for systematic pre-school education carried out by qualified educators (kindergarten nurses). In 1973,

80.7 per cent of all children between 3 and 6 attended kindergartens. For children not attending kindergartens so-called play-and-learn afternoons (once a week) are organized by their future class-teachers in the year before school entry.

Almost all secondary schools have after-school centres where pupils attending forms 1 to 4 are taken care of by educators during afternoons. In 1973, about 60 per cent of the pupils of forms 1 to 4, mainly children of working mothers, attended such centres. The function of these centres is to assist in civics education, helping pupils acquire independent and disciplined learning methods, and developing habits of learning and working, as well as educating happy, healthy and cultured people by sports, games and cultural activity.

The protection of health is a priority of legislation; the relevant provisions on pregnancy and delivery have already been mentioned in section D 1.

Under the labour law all conditions have been created to enable working mothers to fulfil their dual role on the job and at home. Chapter 11 of the Labour Code ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 15/1966) contains fundamental regulations for the promotion of working women, the protection of their health and on State assistance in case their children fall ill; women must not be given heavy or health-endangering work, for instance. Expectant and nursing mothers enjoy special protection. They are entitled to light work and may not be required to work overtime or at night.

Women who have children under six years of age in their household or who have to look after another person in their household needing care without anybody else's assistance may refuse overtime and night work.

Upon request mothers may be granted unpaid leave at the end of their 18-week pregnancy and postnatal leave until one year after childbirth; during this period their employment contract is maintained. Apart from the payment of a nursing allowance, nursing mothers must be granted, up to six months after confinement, two nursing breaks a day lasting 45 minutes each. Notice may not be given to expectant mothers or mothers within six months after confinement.

3. Right of children and young persons to special care and assistance

Young people are especially promoted in their social and vocational development. They have every opportunity for responsible participation in the development of the socialist order of society.

For the implementation of the protection of the health of children and young persons, there exists a large number of legal provisions for the medical, (prophylactic and curative) care of children and young persons. For this purpose, consultation centres have been established which are headed by medical officers and guided in their work by regulations of the Ministry of Health. These are based on the Ordinance on the Permanent Medical Supervision of Children and Young People of 27 February 1954 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 22, p. 250) and its First Executive Order of 27 February 1954 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 26, p. 251).

Annual mass examinations, immunizations according to standard schedules and other prophylactic measures are carried out to protect the health of children and young people. Sanitary and hygienic minimum standards have been set up for crèches, kindergartens and schools (Regulations on Hygiene in Crèches and Homes of 1 April 1962).

Before an infant is admitted to a crèche the following requirements have to be fulfilled:

- thorough medical examination;
- certificate on the scheduled immunizations.

Special attention is paid to children and young persons with physical and mental handicaps.

The medical and social supervision is carried out by specialized consultation centres, where specialists of various medical branches are working in conjunction with psychologists, educators and welfare workers.

3.1 Organized holidays for pupils and apprentices

Organizing holidays for pupils and apprentices is part and parcel of the GDR's youth policy. Its main task is to enable pupils and apprentices to use holidays for recreation, gaining physical strength and good health. An ordinance on the further development of organized holidays passed by the Government of the German Democratic Republic on 1 September 1972 serves this objective. For pupils attending general polytechnical secondary schools the holiday scheme comprises:

- 1 week autumn holidays (October)
- 1 week of holidays at the end of the year (December)
- 3 weeks winter holidays (February)
- 1 week spring holidays (May)
- 8 weeks summer holidays (July - August)

In 1972, more than 600,000 children had a holiday stay in 3,500 enterprise holiday camps; 110,000 children spent their holidays in 48 central holiday camps of the Ernst Thaelmann Pioneers' Organization. About 800,000 young persons took part in organized trips and excursions, while 83,000 went abroad as tourists. The relevant legal provisions stipulate that the Ministry of Health and its organs are responsible for ensuring compliance with health and hygienic requirements in holiday facilities. In co-operation with the organs of the hygiene inspectorate, the fulfilment of hygiene requirements has to be guaranteed by the competent enterprise erecting and organizing a holiday camp. The selection of a camp site can only be approved if the hygiene, sanitary and other requirements have been met, such as good access roads, a hospital within easy reach, dry soil, protected and dust-free location, clean and sufficient water.

Pupils between 6 and 9 years may only be accommodated in enterprise holiday camps if beds are available for them in solid buildings. Special regulations have been issued for organizing holidays for physically and mentally handicapped children. All pupils and apprentices have to undergo a medical checkup 4 weeks before the beginning of a holiday camp at the earliest in order to ascertain their fitness to travel and to live in camp. In pioneer camps an experienced medical officer has to be employed. He is assisted by a number of trained nurses and first-aid attendants of the German Red Cross, whose number is determined according to a government-fixed ratio. Enterprise holiday camps with more than 500 children participating also have a full-time medical officer. In those with less than 500 participants medical supervision is guaranteed by the local health service, i.e. by resident physicians.

The competent district and county hygiene inspectorates attend to the hygienic control of all holiday camps. For holiday camps with bathing facilities the competent German Red Cross committee of the county has to provide a sufficient number of life-savers.

3.2 Schools meals service

In the German Democratic Republic approximately 84 per cent of all women aged between 18 and 60 go out to work. 1.8 million of them have children up to 17 years of age. The schools meals service provides a midday meal to 1.5 million pupils of working mothers. Thus, more than 60 per cent of all pupils get full meals every day for which large subsidies are set aside in the State budget every year. The prime cost of foodstuffs used for preparing school meals amounts to 0.80 marks for each pupil and to 0.50 marks for each infant. The parents, however, are required to pay only 0.55 marks and 0.35 marks for each meal, respectively. Children of large families, recipients of public relief and old-age pensioners are given free meals. Local government authorities are obliged, within the framework of their official duties, to work out annual plans and measures in order to constantly improve the meals service at schools and infant homes.

The special Decree on Meals Service at Schools and Infant Homes dated 9 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" II, No. 136, p. 909) and other relevant provisions issued for this purpose stipulate details for preparing quality meals for pupils and infants.

Accordingly, more than 300 officially approved standard recipes, balanced in their nutritional value, are available. Public health service organs see to it that these recipes are applied and observed, and provide guidance to kitchen personnel. Moreover, courses are held every year to train the kitchen personnel in dietetics and hygienics. 60 per cent of the pupils and infants get their midday meals from school kitchens, 15 per cent from factory canteens, 15 per cent from local facilities, and 6 to 7 per cent from restaurants. 4 to 5 per cent of the pupils get their meals from facilities operated by agricultural co-operatives. All pupils may get milk at school and more than 30 per cent of them do so.

4. Right of parents to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children

In accordance with the call of the United Nations Conference on Human Rights at Teheran in 1968 that every citizen of a country be granted, without any limitation, the right to choose the size of his family and the time of birth, the German Democratic Republic has no restrictive laws limiting the exercise of this right. Planned parenthood is considered a prerequisite for a harmonious family life, for the physical, mental and social well-being of every member of a family.

4.1 Under Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Family Code of the German Democratic Republic of 20 December 1965 ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 1/1966, p.1) the competent State authorities are obliged to establish, together with social organizations, marriage and family advisory centres where citizens with experience of life and expert knowledge may give assistance and advice to those planning to marry or consulting them in other family matters. In order to ensure that the ethical, legal, pedagogical and medical aspects of the problems with which citizens address themselves to the centres are taken into account, at least one jurist, one medical doctor and one educator should be members of the advisory panel.

Pursuant to this law 212 marriage and family advisory centres were established in the German Democratic Republic (there are 245 districts) including a medical section for matrimonial and sexual counselling. Their purpose is to identify, prevent and eliminate difficulties in sexual and family life and partnership relations, and their medical, psychological and social consequences.

The main tasks of the marriage and sexual advisory centres are:

- to offer advice on the most favourable time for the first child to be born and on the optimum spacing of births, and
- to offer indications for the use of contraceptives, counselling on contraception and the prescription or application of contraceptives.

Contraceptives are made available to women free of charge and on prescription only.

4.2 The Law on the Protection of Mother and Child and on the Rights of Women of 27 September 1950 ("Gesetzblatt" No. 111, p. 1037), in its Article 11, already provided for a termination of pregnancy which was permitted when carrying the child to term would have seriously endangered the life or health of a pregnant woman or when one parent was suffering from a serious hereditary disease.

On 9 March 1972, the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic passed the Abortion Law under which women have the right to decide within the first twelve weeks of a pregnancy on whether or not they will have their child, unless there is a medical counter-indication ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 5/1972, p. 89).

The operation may only be carried out by obstetricians and gynaecologists in gynaecological wards or clinics. The costs of the operation, hospitalization and temporary unfitness for work (in case of working women) are fully defrayed by the Social Insurance.

The law obliges the physician to explain to the woman the medical significance of the operation and to advise her on the future application of contraceptives.

An abortion contrary to these provisions is punishable under Articles 153-155 of the Penal Code of 12 January 1968. Accordingly, the woman's right to a free decision is protected by law and must not be influenced by way of coercion or inducement ("Gesetzblatt" I, No. 1 of 22 January 1968).

Already one year after the Abortion Law based on the so-called time-limit pollution had been promulgated, the abortion mortality fell from 1.3 deaths per 10,000 births in 1971 to 0.2 deaths in 1973. In the same period the number of prenatal suicides decreased by more than 75 per cent; there are no longer any undetected cases of illicit abortion.

F. The right to education

The basic principles underlying the integrated socialist educational system stipulate that:

Every citizen of the German Democratic Republic has an equal right to education. Educational facilities are open to all. The integrated socialist educational system guarantees every citizen a continuous socialist education, training and high training.

All citizens have the right to participate in cultural life. Under the conditions of the scientific and technological revolution and increasing intellectual demands this becomes of growing significance. The State and society encourage the participation of citizens in cultural life, physical culture and sport, for the complete expression of the socialist personality and for the growing fulfilment of cultural interests and needs.

In the German Democratic Republic general ten-year secondary schooling is compulsory; this is provided by the ten-year general polytechnical secondary school. In certain cases the secondary schooling may be completed within the framework of vocational training or the further education of the working people. All young people have the right and the duty to learn a vocation.

From the outset the following basic ideas have been consistently and purposefully pursued in the school policy of the German Democratic Republic: Equal rights for all; linking school with life and instruction with productive work; observing the unity of teaching and education.

The Law on the integrated socialist educational system ("Gesetzblatt" I, p.83) adopted by the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic in 1965 proceeds from these basic ideas. The Law names as the objective of the integrated socialist educational system the training and education of universally and harmoniously developed socialist personalities who consciously shape social life, change nature and lead a fulfilled and happy life worthy of a human being.

The educational system of the German Democratic Republic comprises the following types of schools: pre-school education at institutions, the general ten-year polytechnical secondary school, vocational training institutions, schools that prepare for admission to university, engineering and technical schools, universities and colleges of university standard, and the institutions for the training and advanced training of workers. The set-up is such that every citizen may pass on to the next higher stage up to the most advanced level of education - university and university-standard college.

There are no tuition fees in the German Democratic Republic. Full-time studies at universities, colleges and technical schools are free of charge. Free means of study and educational allowance may be granted. Full-time students receive scholarships according to their social conditions and performance.

The development of the socialist educational system in the German Democratic Republic is a piece of revolutionary history of its people - an expression of the talents and abilities of a new teacher generation. After the liberation from fascism the educational system passed through fundamental changes. From the very first day it has been built up on an anti-fascist and democratic basis in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement.

Through the democratic school reform, which began in 1946, the demand of the working class and all progressive forces for secularism, uniformity and government-control of education, for placing the subject-matter of education on a scientific basis and offering equal educational opportunities to all was implemented.

To make education equally accessible to all citizens of the German Democratic Republic it was necessary to completely eradicate fascist ideology in the educational system, too. The content of education had to be purged of all reactionary thought, and access to all educational institutions had to be ensured for the children of workers and peasants.

The old teaching staff was unlikely to educate the youth in the spirit of democratic, humanist and progressive thinking. Most of the teachers had been nazi party members, so that 80 per cent of them had to be dismissed from school service.

Schools were short of 40,000 teachers for their normal operation, with the road to the teaching profession opened for tens of thousands of anti-fascists, 15,000 new teachers started teaching as early as in the 1945/46 school year. By autumn 1946 there were 40,000 new teachers. They had been prepared for their new jobs under very great difficulties, still inadequately trained, but had the firm will to learn and to educate the youth in the spirit of peace and democracy.

1. The right to free primary education

During the early post-war years decisive foundations were laid for the further development of our schools -- foundations which corresponded to the situation in our country at that time and to tradition. But for these steps present standards and future prospects of education in the German Democratic Republic would be inconceivable.

As socialism was being built in the German Democratic Republic it became necessary and possible to develop the general ten-year polytechnical secondary school and to make its attendance step by step compulsory for all children of the people.

At that type of school the pupils acquire, on the basis of an integrated curriculum, an advanced and comprehensive general education. Its content is defined by the requirements of socialist society, the law of motion of modern production and industry, the development of science and technology, of arts and culture, and the wealth of inter-human relationships. In harmony with this concept, socialist general education does not only comprise traditional subjects but necessarily includes the imparting of basic knowledge on work, production, technology and economics at the general school. Thus, the socialist school does justice to its character of a general polytechnical school, and the teaching and education of the youth is closely connected with life and productive work, i.e. the entire social practice.

In accordance with this basic concept of what the content of modern education should be and in implementation of the right to equality in education, the proportions of the various branches of education are defined in the integrated syllabus. 41.1 per cent of the lessons are allotted to social sciences, the mother tongue, literature and arts, which include the subjects of German, history, civics, geography, art studies and music.

29.8 per cent of instruction time is allotted to mathematics and science subjects, which includes mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry and biology.

10.6 per cent of the lessons go to an introduction into socialist production and productive work. This covers the following subjects: crafts, gardening, introduction into socialist production, productive work and technical drawing.

Foreign languages claim 10.6 per cent of instruction time. Russian is taught as a compulsory subject from the fifth grade, and from the seventh grade a second foreign language (English or French) is added as an optional subject. 7.9 per cent of the time is available for sports lessons.

By imparting an up-to-date general education secondary schools in the German Democratic Republic help essentially to implement the right to education. At school the rising generation is prepared in a comprehensive manner for life in the socialist society. Beyond that pupils are given the opportunity of preparing themselves in many ways, i.e. in accordance with their interests, inclinations and vocational preferences, for their future occupation or studies.

Within the scope of the compulsory syllabus it is possible, in a number of subjects in the higher grades, to select the subject-matter in consonance with local conditions. The lessons earmarked for this purpose account for between 3 and 16 per cent of the total.

At the level of the seventh and eighth grade, either an industrial or an agricultural enterprise is chosen for productive work. Ninth and tenth-grade pupils undergo training in productive work in any one of ten economic branches. In this way, the varying interests of the pupils, the requirements of vocational orientation and the need to recruit new skilled workers can better be taken care of.

Another form of the purposeful and diversified realization of the right to education are the extracurricular activities. They are based on, and closely linked with, compulsory general education. The relevant documents are the Directive of the Ministry of Education on extracurricular teaching and education of 30 July 1963 ("Verordnungen und Mitteilungen", No. 15, p.129) and the Directive of the Ministry of Education on the introduction of skeleton programmes for the activities of extracurricular groups concerned with social sciences, science and technology, and culture and arts at the ninth and tenth secondary-school grades of 1 December 1969 ("Verordnungen und Mitteilungen", No. 25, p. 378). There are 22 different types of extra-curricular groups for ninth and tenth-grade pupils. The Ministry of Education issues skeleton programmes adapted to the content of compulsory subjects. In these groups pupils can deepen and broaden their knowledge in fields they are interested in. Among other things, such groups deal with subjects such as electronics, chemical production engineering, soil fertility, micro-biology, machine building, socialist architecture in the German Democratic Republic, pictorial arts, literature, fundamentals of Marxist-Leninist philosophy. These groups also help the 15 and 16 year olds to spend their leisure time in a meaningful and demanding way. Beside this form of promoting special interests and talents, the integrated socialist educational system offers specialized schools and specialized classes. While coming up to the demands made in the regular curricula, they set standards going beyond that in certain fields. For instance, there are specialized schools and classes for Russian, mathematics, certain branches of natural sciences and technology, music, artistic dance, sports and others.

The right to education and all-round personality development is not only implemented in classes but also by way of meaningful and interesting extra-curricular activities. In their duties teachers can fully rely on the support of the "Ernst Thaelmann" Pioneers' Organization and the Free German Youth - the socialist children's and youth organizations.

Content and standards of teachers' and educators' training determine decisively in what way the right to education can be implemented and how the entire schooling system develops. Therefore, the German Democratic Republic has from the beginning attached great importance to achieving a high standard of teachers' and educators' training. Teachers for the lower forms are trained at teacher training institutes. Eligible for this study are graduates from the tenth grade. It is of technical school level and takes four years. Higher-grade specialized teachers study at a university or college of university standard. They require the 12-year high school leaving certificate (Abitur). After four years of study they are qualified to teach two subjects from the fourth to the twelfth grade.

After graduation teachers attend in-service training courses at regular intervals. There they make themselves familiar with basic political, philosophical and economic questions of our time, penetrate deeper into their branch of learning and its trends and study latest findings in pedagogics, psychology and methodology.

Implementing the right to education implies that great attention has to be devoted also to children and youths with major physical and mental handicaps. For them, there are in the German Democratic Republic special schools for children and youths suffering from visual defects, blindness, hardness of hearing and deafness, speech and voice defects, physical and behavioural defects, and for feebleminded persons susceptible of schooling.

2. Right to equal access to higher education on the basis of capacity or merit, including technical, vocational and professional education

Upon completion of the general ten-year polytechnical secondary school the young citizens of the German Democratic Republic may enrol at other schools for their further education. Vocational training sets in after the tenth grade of the general ten-year polytechnical secondary school, leading in the course of two, with vocations three, years on to the skilled worker's certificate and qualifying for admission to a technical school. Moreover, there is the possibility to learn a vocation and simultaneously acquire the Abitur, i.e. within three years the skilled worker's certificate can be obtained along with a university entrance qualification.

In connexion with the further construction of the socialist society and the requirements of scientific and technological progress, vocational training has changed fundamentally. At present there are 28 basic vocations to choose from.

These basic vocations are marked by a rather broadly conceived basic training, especially in vocational theory. The worker who has learned such a basic vocation is qualified to either perform at once many specialized vocational operations in his branch or else to familiarize himself quickly with them. This increases the worker's versatility with a view to meeting the requirements of the scientific-technological revolution and creates favourable conditions for continuous upgrading.

Most of the young people receive their vocational training at factory vocational schools operated by the socialist enterprises in industry and agriculture. Besides, there is a network of municipal vocational schools which admit apprentices from smaller enterprises. The Principles governing the training and further training of working people adopted in 1970 regulate the further qualification of workers after their vocational training. There is a steadily growing number of adults receiving further training in some form or field. The German Democratic Republic has numerous institutions for correspondence courses and evening classes, evening schools, factory and village education centres, clubs and cultural centres and the TV university. These opportunities are widely used by the people, not only for their immediate vocational upgrading, but also for further education in such fields as culture, general knowledge, family pedagogics, politics etc.

Technical schools and the institutions of higher education, forming part of the integrated socialist educational system, are the highest educational institutions in the German Democratic Republic. Every gifted youth is entitled to a university or university-standard education.

To meet the requirements of social and political life in the developed socialist society in the German Democratic Republic new training programmes have been worked out. A well-grounded basic training is complemented by purposeful specialization. The studies are made highly effective by way of rational organization, i.e. through the introduction of what is called scientifico-productive studies and the fact that training is oriented to the profession and close to practice.

In research special encouragement is given to the socialist team effort. Meaningful student participation in this research work is ensured. A research-oriented form of training is increasingly being sought.

All young people are entitled, during their school-time, to the necessary and adequate support in choosing a career and preparing for it. Vocational guidance in the German Democratic Republic amounts in essence to active pedagogic assistance to the young people in forming an idea about the prospects of their lives and careers in the socialist society.

With regard to vocational guidance the Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic stipulated in a decree issued in 1970:

The vocational guidance is a purposeful, systematic and long-term process of teaching and education which includes advice on studies and enlightenment, orientation and guidance on the careers of skilled workers, technical school and university graduates and members of the armed forces.

Vocational guidance is practised as a task-oriented joint effort of general schools, enterprises, universities and technical schools, parents, mass organizations and central and local state organs.

It is the right and the supreme duty of parents to educate their children to become healthy, happy, competent, universally educated and patriotic citizens.

Each school in the German Democratic Republic has its parent-teacher councils democratically elected by the parents, and each class has its parent-teacher committee also elected by the parents. When these parents representations were last elected, more than 2 million parents cast their votes for 635,000 mothers and fathers to represent them on these bodies.

In recent years a priority research project in pedagogics has been the redefining of the content of general education. Altogether some 6,000 educationalists, scientists from various institutions and the field of arts, representatives of enterprises and trade unions as well as teachers were involved in this project. As a result of their effort, which took them from 1964 till 1972 to complete, new curricula for all grades of the general ten-year polytechnical secondary school and the eleventh and twelfth grade were tested and introduced. They are of a high scientific standard and fully meet the demands of modern society. They have legal force and are the binding foundation of instruction in all subjects.

The total number of teaching staff in the German Democratic Republic is 145,000, i.e. 18.7 pupils per teacher, thus implementing the equal right to education for all. There is a total of 2.7 million school children and 6,000 ten-year secondary schools. 55,000 new teachers and educators will be trained until 1975, and at least 17,000 classrooms for general secondary schools will be newly built.

G. The cultural rights

1. Right to participate in cultural life

The German Democratic Republic devotes great attention to adopting and cultivating the humanistic cultural values from the past and present, developing a rich cultural and spiritual life for all working people, promoting artistic creativity and to education and training in the field of fine arts.

The German Democratic Republic fosters and protects socialist culture, which serves peace, humanism and the development of the socialist community of man. Socialist society promotes the cultured life of the working people, cultivates the humanistic values of the national cultural heritage and of world culture, and develops socialist national culture and the concern of the whole people. Artistic work is based on close contact between artists and the life of the people.

1.1 The adoption and cultivation of humanistic cultural values and the development of a rich cultural and spiritual life for all working people

A wide range of cultural institutions and events sponsored by the State and social organizations (bookshops, libraries, theatres, cinemas, orchestras, clubs, radio and television) make it possible for the people to become familiar with works of literature and the arts, to satisfy their cultural needs, to enhance their aesthetic education and to develop their own artistic capabilities.

The publishing houses of the German Democratic Republic publish the works of world literature of the past and of contemporary literature at relatively low prices and in high editions. The book-production of the German Democratic Republic in 1972 totalled 5,102 titles with an overall edition of 119,033,000 copies, out of which 803 titles were translations with 14,049,000 copies printed. Interesting reviews in newspapers and periodicals acquaint readers with recently published books, win new readers and encourage literary discussions.

Bookshops organize book bazaars in industrial and agricultural enterprises, institutions and educational establishments (about 13,700 in 1971), and there are about 12,000 voluntary assistants in the enterprises helping in the sale. Such bazaars account for some 20 per cent of the overall sales of belletristic, technical and scientific literature.

The number of books in factory libraries financed by factory cultural funds is growing every year. Also growing is the number of those borrowing books regularly, and their interest in good literature as well. In the German Democratic Republic there are 11,408 public libraries, 4,908 factory libraries and 34 scientific libraries; in 1972 they had 4,548,000 readers. With the number of books amounting to 59,852,000 there were 78,068,000 borrowings. In all public libraries the lending of books is free of charge.

Most contemporary authors have close and friendly relations with literary circles in the enterprises and read from their new books there, thus promoting interest and understanding while they receive important stimulations for their own artistic work.

The German Democratic Republic has 75 theatres with 50,834 seats (3 seats per 1,000 inhabitants), among them four children and youth theatres and ten puppet-theatres; in addition there are 81 State orchestras with 4,402 musicians, one State dancing troupe, one State-sponsored rural folk-art troupe, one Sorbian folk-art group and 2,000 amateur dancing groups and ballets. A well-organized subscription system facilitates and promotes regular theatre-going for all walks of life.

Cultural centres and clubs have become important centres of cultural and intellectual life, places for education, instruction and recreation, where people come together and have a good time. They are run by the local State organs, or the trade unions and other mass organizations. They usually have a concert hall, rooms for hobby circles, a library and a restaurant. In 1971 there were 948 cultural centres and clubs which received 37 million visitors. They arranged more than 346,000 events.

1.2 Promotion of amateur artistic activities

In the German Democratic Republic, the State and all social forces are intent on promoting artistic activities of the people which are closely linked with the progressive and revolutionary traditions of the workers' cultural movement. They promote the development of artistic interests, abilities and inclinations and have a great influence on the development of personality. The number of people participating in amateur artistic activities in circles, groups and troupes exceeds one million. Musical instruments, working material and rooms are placed at their disposal free of charge. They are supported and guided by professional artists and experienced teachers. In three-year courses organized by the Special School for amateur artistic activities 8,000 leaders of folk art groups have been trained up to now.

At cultural events or exhibitions artistic groups have ample opportunity to display their abilities and exchange experiences.

Festivals in all fields of arts and culture are organized regularly: dancing festivals, singing festivals, dance music festivals, festivals of puppet-shows, amateur film festivals, festivals of the Sorbian culture. The most important festival is the biennial Workers' Festival. Professional and folk artists from all countries of the German Democratic Republic are delegated to show their best performances at this festival. For outstanding performances prizes are awarded.

In 1970, 340 nationally-owned enterprises and combines organized for the first time factory festivals to acquaint more people with artistic programmes and to inspire them to cultural activities.

An advisory board for folk art attached to the Ministry of Culture deals with basic problems of the development of amateur artistic activities, promotes co-operation between professional and folk artists and co-ordinates the activities of the folk art bodies and organizations.

1.3 The cultural and aesthetic education and professional training of artists

Classes in the subjects of music, arts and literature are an integral part of general education in the integrated socialist educational system of the German Democratic Republic. These subjects are taught from the first up to the tenth grade of the ten-class polytechnical secondary school and are compulsory for all pupils. In extended high school (eleventh and twelfth grade), classes in literature and in either one of the two subjects of music or arts are compulsory.

In addition to these compulsory classes school offers many opportunities of voluntary extra-curricular activities for pupils in the fields of music, art and literature in order to promote their gifts and talents in a systematic and purposeful way.

Extra-curricular activities are financed from public funds and are free of charge for the participants.

Extra-curricular education in the German Democratic Republic also includes five children and youth theatres which offer performances for children and young people only. In pupils' concerts boys and girls become acquainted with important works of music. The majority of the pupils of the senior grade classes make use of theatre season-tickets for young people, offered by all theatres in the German Democratic Republic, to get acquainted with the treasures of the national cultural heritage and of contemporary dramatic art.

The professional training of artists takes place at the State academies and specialized schools (music schools, dramatic art schools, ballet schools, schools for performing and applied arts etc.). Training is free of charge. 95 per cent of all art students receive scholarships. Studies at academies take four to five years, at specialized schools three years.

2. Right to the protection of the moral and material interests arising out of scientific, literary or artistic work

By means of the copyright (Copyright Law of 13 September 1965) (Gesetzblatt" I 1965, No. 14, p. 209) the State guarantees the comprehensive protection of the rights of authors of works of literature, art and science. Thus, the moral and material interests of the authors of such works are ensured. The copyright also covers works created by amateur artistic activities. It is to be applied, no matter whether a work was created by a professional or an amateur during artistic or scientific activities (Article 1, paragraph 2, Copyright Law).

Article 13 of the Copyright Law designates the copyright as an absolute right relating directly to the person entitled thereto. This elucidates that the work, the result of the creative activity of the author, is an expression of his unmistakable literary, artistic or scientific personality. From the absolute right relating directly to the person there arise rights under the law of property and rights not under the law of property.

Authorship rights not under the law of property

They include the author's right to recognition of his authorship. He has the right to object to all attempts aimed at suppressing or tampering with his authorship. He is entitled to demand that, when his work is used in public, his name be mentioned in connexion with his work (Article 14, Copyright Law). Interference in the work (such as unauthorized additions, omissions, changes) without the consent of the author are infringements of the author's personality and therefore inadmissible. The author has the right to object to any mutilation or distortion (Article 16, paragraph 1, Copyright Law) or to any use of his work in a manner detrimental to its artistic or scientific standing (Article 17, Copyright Law).

Authorship rights under the law of property

It is up to the author to give permission for the use of his work irrespective of the technical means to be used for its publication (Article 18, paragraph 1 and 3, Copyright Law).

When usufructuary rights are delegated the author is to be paid a compensation according to the literary, artistic and scientific value of his work (Article 19, paragraph 2, Copyright Law). If there is no arrangement as to whether usufructuary rights shall be delegated with compensation or without, the author is entitled to the compensation paid when such usufructuary rights are delegated (Article 19, paragraph 2, second sentence, Copyright Law).

Legal protection

The Copyright Law obliges directors of State and economic bodies, cultural and scientific institutions, publishing houses and enterprises to see to it that the rights of authors are safeguarded in their sphere of competence (Article 1, paragraph 2, Copyright Law). It is the duty of the courts to protect the rights and interests of the authors as stipulated by the Copyright Law. In case of violations of his rights the author may demand that the conditions stipulated by the provisions of the law be restored; no further violations of the law, if any, be committed; a public correction be made; any illegal use of the work be compensated; and that in the case of a culpable violation of the rights the ensuing property damage be compensated.