

**Prevention of Blindness**

4733. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS has recently made any survey for the evaluation of blindness in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the prevention of blindness in unborn babies and treatment of diseases like cataract during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the upgradation of ophthalmology departments in the hospitals of/country under cataract control programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir. In 1986-89, WHO-NPCB National Survey on Blindness was carried out by the then Advisor (Ophthalmology) and Chief of Dr. R.P. Centre.

(b) The survey has revealed that prevalence of both eye blind persons is estimated to be 1.49%. About 80% of blindness is due to Senile Cataract. Other causes of blindness include Refractive errors, Glaucoma and Corneal Opacity.

(c) and (d). As part of Maternity and Child Health Services, Antenatal care is provided to expectant mothers to prevent blindness in unborn babies. The strengthening of PHCs, District Hospitals and Medical Colleges with staff and equipment has been initiated. Similarly central mobile Units and District Mobile Units have been provided

and are under replacement at places where they have outlived their utility. They provide outreach ophthalmic services in rural areas.

**Incentives to Railway Staff**

4734. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:-

(a) whether "Human Failure" is a predominant cause of railway accidents;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enhance inputs in terms of training and motivation of the staff and to give greater thrust on the welfare programmes of railwaymen to achieve greater motivation amongst them;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). All the operational staff in Group 'C' have an induction course in the training schools where they are taught all the Safety rules and regulations and have to pass an examination to check their competence. Besides, operational staff have to undergo refresher courses every 3-5 years of 2-4 weeks duration whether their knowledge of rules and regulations is updated. Wherever deficiencies are noticed, staff are properly counselled by the supervisory of the concerned departments.

Safety camps are also organized periodically to educate the operational staff with the latest safety techniques. Drivers are personally monitored and trained by Inspectors. Safety counsellors from four major disciplines are deputed to constantly coun-

sel the staff in safety matters. Safety meetings are also held every month at various levels including at stations and yards to discuss safety matters.

to encourage the staff to have greater safety consciousness, incentive scheme for accident-free service already exists. Under this scheme, the following awards are given:-

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For 10 years unbroken accident-free service	= Rs. 1,000.00+ Certificate
For 20 years unbroken accident-free service	= Rs. 2,000.00+ Certificate
For life time accident-free service	= Rs. 5,000.00+ Certificate.

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[Translation]

### Complaints against City Booking Agencies

4735. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against the city booking agencies for selling the goods in the mid-way while transporting them from the Railway godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

### Proposals for Conservations of forests and Improvement of Environment

4736. SHRIMATIBIBHUKUMARIDEVI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes for conservation of forests and improvement of environment forwarded by the Government of Tripura to the Union Government during 1989, 1991 under development of Infrastructure for protection of forest from Biotic Interference; and

(b) the action taken on each scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Proposals from Govt. of Forests from Biotic Interference have been received and the assistance provided to Tripura Govt. is given as under:-

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<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in lakhs).</i>
1.	1989-90	-
2.	1990-91	3.45
3.	1991-92	11.43

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