

(a) whether a 4-day Conference of Vice-Chancellors of the Asian and Pacific Region was held at Vigyan Bhawan recently; and

(b) if so, the discussion held at the Conference and the conclusions of the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference was held at the initiative of the UGC to provide an appropriate forum to discuss common educational problems and to devise co-operative activities, mutual exchanges, etc in the field of education in Asia. Considering that such a forum provided an invaluable opportunity for the Asian Academic world to get together and discuss matters of common interest, the Conference resolved that member countries should hold such conferences every year by rotation. It was also decided that a permanent secretariat should be set up, and till this is done, the UGC should look after the secretariate work. The Conference also decided to set up a Working Group to finalise the establishment of the permanent Secretariat and the holding of the next conference.

Samples Received in Chemical Laboratory of Government Medical Store Depot, Madras From April, 1984 to February, 85

1862. **SHRI M. MAHALINGAM :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many samples have been received for testing in Chemical Laboratory of Government Medical Store Depot, Madras during the period April, 1984 to February, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large number of samples have been referred for analysis to some other outside Laboratories during this period;

(c) if so, was it due to the fact that aforesaid laboratory is not well-equipped or is leaving in technical know-how or is in need of more staff; and

(d) what remedial steps are being taken to improve the out-turn ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d). From April, 1984 to February, 1985, 1978 samples were received for test by the Chemical Laboratory attached to the Government Medical Stores Depot, Madras. To avoid delay in timely supply of medicines to the C.G.H.S., 232 samples were sent for test to outside private laboratories. To tide over the situation, the Chemical Laboratory has been suitably strengthened by internal adjustment of staff in the Depot.

Railway Carriage Body Building Factory in Dharampuram

1863. **SHRI. R. ANNANAMBI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view of the fact that Dharampuram being a very backward area in Tamil Nadu, there is a proposal to set up a Railway Carriage Body Building industry there to alleviate the sufferings of the people of the locality; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Porters on Strike on New Delhi Railway Station

1864. **SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether porters on the New Delhi Railway Station have gone on