

**TB Due to Deficiency of Vitamin 'A'**

6912. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to malnutrition/deficiency of Vitamin 'A' leprosy and tuberculosis is fairly widespread in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to remove the deficiency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Both TB and Leprosy are infectious diseases and are caused by infection of Tubercle bacilli and M. Lapre respectively. There is no evidence to suggest that deficiency of Vitamin 'A' causes the spread of these two disease.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

**Plight of Seamen Registered in Calcutta**

6913. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a sequel to the recession in the shipping industry the Indian seamen are among the hardest hit,

(b) whether the plight of the seamen registered in Calcutta is worse than that of those in Bombay;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to absorb these jobless Calcutta seamen;

(d) whether there are also jobless maritime officers;

(e) if so, whether Government are : reviewing the entire gamut of manpower planning in the shipping industry so that after training these young maritime officers are provided employment; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The ratio of jobs available to the number of seamen is lower at Calcutta than at Bombay.

(c) The Seamen's Employment Board at Calcutta is being revived to advise the Director General of Shipping on the distribution of available jobs on a more equitable basis between the company roster and the general roster. On the recommendation of Nanda Committee which was set up to go further into the question of unemployment among seamen, the training of new seamen has been stopped.

(d) Yes. There are about 300 officers holding the Second Mate Certificate who are presently without jobs.

(e) The manpower requirement for the shipping industry is being continuously kept under review. During the last two years the graduate entry scheme of Directorate of Marine Engineering Training has been suspended; training period for Nautical Officers in T. S. 'Rajendra' was increased from one to two years in 1983 thereby reducing the intake by half; and from 1984 the intake into T. S. 'Rajendra' has been further reduced from 125 to 70 cadets.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

**Rail Line from Kothagudem to Vijayawada**

6914. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Railways to construct a new Railway line from Kothagudem to Vijayawada via Tiruvuru in Andhra Pradesh to help transport of coal to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station as well as development of the backward areas along the proposed line;

(b) when the survey work is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, whether the Railway Ministry propose to consider the proposal in view of its importance and undertake survey of the work ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Due to severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, there is no such proposal.