

### Seats for Donors in Educational Institutions

1382. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether seats are reserved for donors in the educational institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, details of the institutions where seats are reserved for donors ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Proposal to Change Medical Education Policy

1383. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to change the medical education policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India set up a Medical Education Review Committee in September, 1981 to review and make recommendations for effecting necessary changes in the present medical education system. The Committee in its Report, inter alia, has made recommendations relating to (i) National Entrance Examination for admission to Under-graduate and Postgraduate course (ii) abolition of capitation fees; (iii) additional incentives to doctors for serving in rural areas; (iv) establishment of Universities of Health Sciences; (v) establishment of Regional Institutions, etc. On receipt of the Report of the Review Committee, an Empowered Committee was appointed which has since submitted its report to Government for consideration and appropriate action.

### Delay in Construction of Thien Dam

1384. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been considerable delay in the construction of Thien Dam and the Shahpur Kandi barrage by the Punjab Government due to which Ravi-Tawi Irrigation Project has been delayed very much; and

(b) if so, whether Union Government will take necessary action for the early completion of Thien Dam and Shahpur Kandi Project ?

MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) and (b). There has been delay in construction of Thien Dam. It is on account of constraint of funds with the State Government. The Central Government is considering measures for expediting the construction of this project.

A decision on the Shahpur Kandi Barrage Project has not been taken as the differences between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir regarding the estimates and sharing of costs of certain components of the Project have to be settled first.

### Causes of High Level of Thiocyanate in Urine of Victims Exposed by MIC Gas.

1385. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research was entrusted with the task of determining the causes for high level of thiocyanate which was noticed in the urine of victims exposed to MIC gas recently exposed in Bhopal Union Carbide;

(b) if so, the results of the study made by Indian Council of Medical Research;

(c) whether HYPO is antidote for MIC; and

(d) if so, the reasons for releasing the results of this study after two months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A comprehensive range of scientific medical research investigation of the gas affected victims in Bhopal was undertaken by the I.C.M.R. in collaboration with the State Health Department, the Gandhi Medical College and the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Medico-Legal Institute of Bhopal. Following preliminary investigations, it was decided that monitoring of the urinary thiocyanates values would be a good index of the normal detoxification mechanism of the body. Hence tests were initiated by one of the ICMR teams in Bhopal in late December, the methodology was double checked in appropriate laboratories in Delhi from the first Week of January onwards. The tests established that there were elevated levels of urinary thiocyanate. Following this it was decided to carry out a study with the use of Sodium Thiosulphate (commonly known as HYPO and Glucose).

Although this drug was known to be harmless and was being used in a limited way in Bhopal the scientific basis of its efficacy was established only after the conclusion of I.C.M.R. Study which demonstrated that thiosulphate administration increases the excretion of urinary thiocyanate. The increased levels of thiocyanate in urine are indicative of clearance of cyanate pool from the bodies of persons exposed to the gas in Bhopal. Once a scientific basis of the efficacy of Sodium Thiosulphate was established, the information was released for wider use on 31.1.1985 and 12.2.1985. The use of Sodium Thiosulphate was also recommended to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

It is not yet certain in Whether HYPO is specific antidote for MIC. This matter is under investigation. However, according to results obtained so far HYPO neutralises the breakdown products of MIC or other toxic substances generated in the body.

### Tripura Objects to Dhaka Dam

1386. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Times of India dated 6 March, 1985 under the Caption Tripura objects to Dhaka Dams;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India have taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh.

### Review about Occurance and Impact of Communicable Diseases

1387. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has made any review about the occurrence and impact of some communicable diseases other than Malaria and Tuberculosis in the country ;

(b) if so, what are those communicable diseases which caused concern in different parts of the country in last three years;

(c) whether some such diseases are on the fast expanding in the country;

(d) if so, the efforts made to initiate control measures of those communicable diseases; and

(e) the details thereof ?

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