

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to remove these speed restriction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) No Sir, The extent of track having speed restrictions has come down from the level of 2356 kms as on 31.3.1983 1903 kms on 31-1-1985.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The pace of Track Renewala is being stepped up. In 1984-85, about 2500 kms of track is expected to be renewed at a net cost of Rs. 300 crores. For 1985-86, Rs. 415 crores (net) (494 crores gross) have been provided and 3000 kms track is proposed to be renewed. The draft Seventh Plan (1985-90) envisages renewals of approximately 21,000 kms of track at an approximate cost of Rs. 2500 crores.

Medium of Medical Education

1427. **SHRI NARSING RAO SURYAWANSHI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government regarding imparting of Medical Education in English in the country as a whole;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu Government is keen on imparting it in Tamil; and

(c) if so, reaction of the Government thereto ?

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

(a) The Medical Council of India, which is responsible for the maintenance of standards of medical education in the country, has reported that the matter regarding medium of instruction in all the medical colleges was considered by the Council several times and the Council was of the opinion that the present medium of instruction (English) be continued in all Medical Colleges till suitable text books in the regional languages are made available. The Central Govern-

ment have been addressing the State Governments to initiate suitable measures for the production of text books, reference books and other general aids in Hindi and regional languages for creating an atmosphere for the use of Hindi and regional languages in imparting medical education.

(b) and (c) The Tamil Nadu Government have reported that pursuant to the suggestion of the Government of India, they have taken preliminary action to replace English by Tamil as the medium of instruction in Government medium colleges. Preparatory work for transition is in progress.

Setting up of Heart Surgery Including Bypass Units in the Country

1428. **SHRI K. PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that each patient going abroad for by pass surgery requires around Rs. 4 lakhs or so; and

(b) whether Government will consider the necessity for setting up some heart surgery including bypass units with most modern equipment in some places like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and elsewhere where some such arrangements exist already ?

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

(a) There is no uniform rate of expenditure in respect bypass surgery in foreign countries. However, it has been estimated that patients generally incur an expenditure between Rs. 2 to 5 lakhs depending upon the country where they choose to avail of this facility.

(b) There are about ten hospitals in India including All India Insritute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi where facilities for bypass coronary surgery are available.

(Translation)

Jaya Nagar-Sitamarhi Rail Line

1429. **SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it as a fact that Government had formulated a scheme to lay a new line from Jaya Nagar to Sitamarhi;

(b) if so, the time by which this line is proposed to be laid; and

(c) if not, the time by which Government will take necessary steps to formulate such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA)
(a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for construction of a new line from Jaya Nagar to Sitamarhi, at present.

(c) There is no proposal to formulate proposals either in view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand.

[*English*]

Food Assistance to Private Institutions

1430. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether food assistance has been given to private educational and social welfare institutions in India during 1982, 1983 and 1984; if so, the details of assistance given to each State under the programme; and

(b) the details of assistance given to Orissa during the said period and how it was utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) and (b). Supplementary nutrition programmes are in the State sector of the Plan. The Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare implements non-plan nutrition programme for pre-school children (3-5 years) through Balwadis/Day Care Centres. This programme is implemented through five national level voluntary organisations. This programme, however, is not one of food

assistance to private educational and social welfare institutions.

External food assistance for nutrition programmes is received from CARE (Co-operative for American Relief Everywhere) and CRS (Catholic Relief Services). CARE food commodities are given to States and not to private institutions. CRS distributes the food through private institutions for programmes of mother and child health, nurseries/creches, school feeding, other child feeding, individual health cases and food for work. Food assistance from CRS to Orissa for 1982, 1983 and 1984 was as follows :

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1982 (actuals) | 5 Consignees | 4420 M.T. |
| 1983 (actuals) | —do— | 3488 M.T. |
| 1984 (estimate) | —do— | 1789 M.T. |

Non-Availability of Drugs to Cure Meningitis

1431. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the preventive drugs for 'meningitis' are not available in the country;

(b) whether such drugs are available in western country;

(c) if so, whether any effort has been made to import these drugs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Preventive drugs for meningitis are available in the country. However, 1,00,000 doses of meningococcal vaccine (A+C) have been imported through W.H.O. and additional quantity of 5,00,000 doses are under supply.

(d) Does not arise.