

Forest Research Institutes were set up during the year 1987-88.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### **Achievements of Leprosy Eradication Board**

6187. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leprosy Eradication Board has been set up in the country; and

(b) if so, the main functions and achievements of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functions of the National Leprosy Eradication Board are as under:

- (i) The NLEB exercises the powers vested in the relevant Ministries, namely Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in regard to the areas allotted to each of them under the Rules of Business.
- (ii) The NLEB has the power to sanction the schemes, if they are within the financial powers delegated to the relevant Ministries.
- (iii) The NLEB will, acting in concert with the State Governments/ U.T. Administration, voluntary Organisations and all other concerned with this great endeavour, take such initiatives

and steps as are necessary to eradicate leprosy by the turn of the century.

- (iv) Review the progress of the NLEB biannually.

With the approval of the Board MDT activities have been sanctioned in 73 districts and the prevalence rate of leprosy has been reduced to a considerable extent. In the seven districts which have completed the intensive phase of MDT, the reduction in prevalence rate has been to the extent of about 80 per cent. At present 2.8 million Leprosy patients are covered under treatment out of 3.15 million cases on record.

[English]

#### **Notification Re: Pay Scales of Govt. doctors of Indian Systems of Medicine**

6188. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a notification regarding the pay scales of Government doctors of indigenous systems of medicine has been issued as per the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time which this notification is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter regarding grant of revised pay scales to the doctors of Indian

Systems of Medicine/Homoeopathy is under consideration of the Government. A decision in this regard will be taken as soon as possible, after due consultation amongst various Ministries/Departments concerned.

[*Translation*]

#### **Development of Railways in Bihar**

6189. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:  
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding railway projects for expansion of railways, renovation of tracks and introducing new trains with modern facilities in Bihar; and

(b) the present progress made in this regard and by which time these projects are likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). In Bihar a new rail line from Talgaria to Tupkadih (33 km) has been opened to traffic in March, 1987 and, for this, residual works are in progress.

Track renewals are undertaken based on condition and the cumulative traffic carried. In Bihar State 1715 km. of track is proposed to be renewed, out of which about 465 km. has already been undertaken in 1987-88 and the balance 1250 km. is proposed to be completed during the next 2-3 years, depending upon the availability of funds.

A new MG express train between Samastipur and Jayanagar and new BG passenger train between Chopan and Katni which will benefit the people of Bihar State, are proposed to be introduced from 1.5.1988. In addition, frequency of 133/134

Ahmedabad-Howrah Express which passes through Bihar is being increased to daily.

[*English*]

#### **Inter-University Centre For Research In Astrophysics**

6190. DR. V.VENKATESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-University Centre for Research in Astrophysics is proposed to be set up by the University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). The proposed Inter-University Centre in Astrophysics will be a major national facility for teaching and research in astronomy and astrophysics. Teachers, Students and Scientists working in various University Departments could visit the Centre and use theoretical and observational facilities available there in the formulation and execution of their research programmes of varying durations. The Centre will be set up in collaboration with the Poona University and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. It will be located on the campus of the Poona University, and the TIFR would provide access to its Giant Meter Radio Telescope for academic programmes of the Centre. The recurring and non-recurring expenditure of the Centre will be met by the UGC. The Centre is proposed to be established and developed as an autonomous organisation. The UGC has appointed a Steering Committee to advise and guide the finalisation of the details for the estab-