

Development of Vaccine for Human Leprosy Patients by U.S. Medical Research Scientists

3779. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that U.S. Medical Research Scientists have developed the first Vaccine for human leprosy patients; and

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the utility of such vaccine in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) The Government is aware of the fact that several groups of scientists all over the world are involved in developing a vaccine.

(b) No effective vaccine against leprosy is at present available and so the question of its utility in India does not arise.

Shifting of Divisional Office of South Eastern Railway

3780. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to shift the Divisional Office of South Eastern Railway from Nagpur to Nayanpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Office of the Satpura Division has been functioning in Nagpur since 1973?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Divisional office has, in fact, been functioning at Nagpur since 1963.

Wagons for turmeric transportation

3781. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wagons had not been made available for April and May, 1980 to transport turmeric from Erode to North Indian centres;

(b) whether this has led to piling up of turmeric worth Rs. 5 crores; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for allotting more wagons to Erode for transporting turmeric?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No. A total of 172 wagons were supplied for loading of turmeric at Erode during April and May, 1980 as against 100 wagons supplied during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Railways are not aware.

(c) Does not arise.

Stone cutters as bonded labours

3782. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the stone cutters in the country are still being treated as bonded labours; and

(b) the steps which Government propose to take to eradicate the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.