

3. Retirement age of the seaman is to be reduced to 58 years from the present 60 years.
4. A scheme for financial assistance to the unemployed seamen be worked out and implemented.
5. Issue of Continuous Discharge Certificates to be confined to the Shipping Master at Bombay and Calcutta only.
6. Pre-entry medical standards for seamen to be reviewed.
7. Pre-entry educational qualification to be raised to standard X (pass) from standard VIII (pass).

Orders have been issued that the reduced retirement age would be applicable to seamen who are registered on or after 1-7-1982.

This has been discussed in detail at various meetings of shipowners and seafarers but no acceptable scheme has yet been finalised.

Orders have been issued restricting the issue of CDCs to Bombay and Calcutta.

After consultation with Ministry of Defence, it is felt that existing medical standards are adequate.

Since pre-sea training has been suspended now, the revised educational standards will be decided at the time of next advertisement for intake of trainees.

[Translation]

Measures to avoid inconvenience caused to Passengers in getting Reservation of Berths in moving Trains

2569. SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken to avoid inconvenience caused to the passengers at present in getting reservation of berths in the moving Utkal and Kalinga Express trains and to ensure that such reservation is done without difficulty; and

(b) whether Government propose to display the information about vacant berths on the notice boards of the platforms immediately on the arrival of the trains at the stations ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). Instructions exist that the position regarding vacant berths on the trains should, as far as possible, be relayed to each succeeding halt in advance of the arrival of the train and should also be displayed on the side-panels of coaches by TTEs manning such

coaches. In addition, specific quotas of reserved accommodation depending on regular traffic offering and other relevant factors, are also allotted to various intermediate stations for independent booking for the convenience of passengers boarding at such stations.

[English]

Recognition of Degree of Lvov Medical Institute, USSR by Medical Council of India

2570. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of uniform syllabus and standard of medical education in the various medical institutes in the USSR, the degree of the Lvov Medical Institute is yet to be recognised by the Medical Council of India which has already recognised the degree of a number of Soviet Medical Institutes; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to have the recognition of the said degree decided by the Medical Council of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, every foreign medical qualification has to be recommended for recognition individually to the Central Government by the Medical Council of India. The degree of Lvov Medical Institute U.S.S.R. has been referred to Medical Council of India for making necessary recommendations.

Fire Incidents in Delhi Hospitals

2571. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fire incidents reported in Central Government Hospitals of Delhi/ New Delhi during the year 1983 and 1985;

(b) the amount of loss suffered by the Hospitals due to the fire incident and reasons for the fire incident in each case; and

(c) what action Government propose to take for future to prevent such fire incidents in the Hospitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). Only one case of fire incident in E.N.T. (C.G.H.S. Wing) of Safdarjang Hospital occurred on 2-3-85 when C.P.W.D. were doing renovation work. The Hospital did not suffer any loss. Fire Fighting arrangements in Central Government Hospitals have been reviewed for augmentation in consultation with C.P.W.D./District Fire Officer.

Rail Lines Thanwe-Bhore Bijapur and Pagra-Bhatni

2572. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to construct new rail lines from Thanwe to Bhore Bijapur-Pagra-Bhatni in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the construction of the above line the passengers who travel through Siwan Bhatni shall have to travel a distance of 400 kilometres less and thus they will save time and money; and

(c) when the said rail lines are proposed to be constructed ?

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

(b) and (c). There is no proposal for construction of the suggested new line in view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand.

Epidemic Form of Jaundice in Allahabad Distt.

2573. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last few months, an unprecedented jaundice epidemic has been raging in the district of Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, the causes of the spread of the epidemic; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken to combat the disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Inclusion of Keleghai Phase II Project in Midnapur District in Seventh Plan

2574. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Keleghai river in Midnapur district is in dire need of some more work on it (projected in Keleghai phase II), the absence of which is causing havoc to a large peasant population of Saband and Patshpur police stations, as was evident