

Prevention of Disabilities

173. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest available estimate of disabled persons in the country suffering by main disabilities and how the estimate was arrived at ;

(b) which of these disabilities are largely preventable and the preventive steps taken by Government in the last three years ; and

(c) the time span within which the preventable disabilities are planned to be eliminated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) The survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation during 1981 is the latest estimate of disabled population in the country. The survey covered locomotor, speech and hearing and visual disabilities. According to this estimate 12 million people are suffering from one or other disability constituting about 1.8 per cent of the total population of 680 million (1981 census). A statement regarding the area covered and the deficiencies followed in the survey is annexed.

(b) Blindness due to keratomalacia—the most severe form of Vitamin A deficiency coupled with malnutrition and orthopaedic disabilities due to polio are largely preventable. During the last 3 years the following number of children in the age group 1-5 were covered under the programme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency :-

Figures in million

1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
18.66	19.09	16.94

The number of beneficiaries given polio vaccination under the immunisation programme is given below :-

No. of beneficiaries in lakhs

1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
29.3	44.5	79.4

(c) Targets for the Seventh Plan are being worked out.

Statement

The survey covered 5409 sample villages and 3652 urban blocks, throughout the country (excluding Assam).

The following definitions were adopted for the survey :-

(i) Visual Disability :

A person was treated to be visually disabled if he/she did not have light perception both eyes taken together or if he/she had light perception but could not correctly count fingers of a hand (with spectacles if he/she used spectacles) from a distance of 3 metres in good day light.

(ii) Hearing Disability :

A person having one ear with normal hearing ability and the other with total loss of hearing ability was treated as normal and not disabled. Hearing ability was judged without the use of hearing aids. The following persons were classified as disabled :

(a) Those cannot hear at all (i.e. hearing only loud sound such as thunder and understanding only gestures) ;

(b) Those with profound hearing loss (i.e. hearing only loud sound such as thunder and understanding only gestures) ;

(c) Those with severe hearing loss (i.e. hearing only shouted words or hearing if the speaker is in front) ; and

(d) Those with moderate hearing loss (i.e. having hearing

disability to such an extent that they usually ask to repeat or like to see the face of the speaker or feel difficulty in conducting telephone conversation or in hearing whispsers).

(iii) *Speech Disability* :

In addition to those who cannot speak at all, persons having the following defects were considered disabled :

- (i) Speaking unintelligibly ;
- (ii) Stammering ;
- (iii) Speaking with abnormal voice ; and
- (iv) Other speech defects (nasal voice and articulation defect)

(iv) *Locomotor Disability* :

By locomotor disability was meant an individual's inability to execute distinctive activities associated with moving both himself and objects from place to place. The loss or lack of normal ability of an individual associated with moving both himself and objects from one place to another can occur due to :

- (i) Paralysis of the limb or body ;
- (ii) deformity of the limb ;
- (iii) amputation ;
- (iv) disfunction of joints of the limb ; and
- (v) deformity in the body other than that in the limb (i.e. deformity in spine; deformity in the neck)

The hunch-back and dwarf were also included under locomotor disability.

Railway Line Between Cochin-Alleppey-Coimbatore

174. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of, RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the construction of rail line between Cochin and Alleppey and Alleppey-Coimbatore ; and

(b) when the work is to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). The construction of a rail line from Ernakulam (Cochin) to Alleppey and its extension from Alleppey to Kayamkulam are approved works. Their progress is 42% and 0.1% respectively. There is no line under construction between Alleppey and Coimbatore. Completion of these works will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Rail Line From Mangalore To Bombay

175. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a rail line from Mangalore to Bombay and also the 'Konkan' Railway line ; and

(b) if so, the present position in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). The proposal for construction of the West Coast line from Apta on Central Railway to Mangalore on Southern Railway via Roha, Dasgaon, Ratnagiri, Madgaon, Karwar and Udipi has been under consideration.

In view of the long length and considerable cost of this proposed line, it has to be taken up in phases. Construction of the Apta-Roha (61 Kms.) new FG line is an approved work. The Apta-Pen (20 Kms.) section has already been opened to