

(c) It is correct that blindness in rural areas is slightly on the higher side as compared to the urban population. According to ICMR 1971-73 Survey, estimated percentage is 1.4% in the rural areas and 1.1% in the urban population.

(d) Main factors responsible for blindness as per I.C.M.R. Survey carried out in 1971-73 are as under :

Cataract :	55%
Trachoma & Associated infections	20%
Small pox	3%
Nutritional deficiency	2%
Injuries	1.20%
Glaucoma	0.50%
Others	18.30%

(e) Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness eye care services are extended to far-flung areas through mobile camps and permanent eye care facilities have been provided at the community, PHCs, District and State levels. The Programme is being implemented throughout the country and the achievements regarding developments of infrastructure facilities are as under :—

(i) Central Mobile Units	: 80
(ii) Primary Health Centre	: 2000
(iii) District Hospitals	: 404
(iv) Medical Colleges	: 59
(v) Distt. Mobile Units	: 30
(vi) Ophth. Assistant training Schools	: 37
(vii) Regional Institutes	: 9
(viii) State Ophthalmic Cells	: 18

Vitamin A is being supplied under the Maternal and Child Health care programmes.

Deaths due to Measles in Rajasthan and other states and Development of Measles Vaccines

2589. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as appeared in Indian Express dated 12 July, 1985 measles has killed 61 children in Rajasthan recently and if so, details thereof ;

(b) whether similar cases have occurred in other parts of the country and remedial steps taken/proposed ;

(c) what are the long term and short-term plans of Indian Council of Medical Research/Medical authorities to combat the disease ; and

(d) whether measles vaccines have been developed and used in Western countries under immunisation programmes and if so, reason for non-introduction of the same in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) : According to available information, the number of deaths on account of measles in the country during 1984 reported by different States and Union Territories was 472. The reported number of deaths in Rajasthan during 1984 was 33 and 24 up to March during 1985.

(c) and (d) : Measles vaccine has been in use in other countries. It has been introduced in the Expanded Programme of Immunization in India during this year. During the 7th Plan its coverage will be expanded.

Widening and Maintenance of Trivandrum Kanyakumari National Highway and Replacement of Bridges

2590. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :