

(d) whether it is proposed to elicit the co-operation of voluntary organisations in implementation of the policy and programme, if so, how ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR, : (a) and (b).

No Sir. However, as one of the various initiatives taken in order to step up the activities of the Voluntary Organisations in the Family Welfare Programme, a proposal to set up a High Level Standing Committee consisting of the Ministers of the Ministries/Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Human Resources, Labour, Welfare, Agriculture and Rural Development and Information and Broadcasting, is under the consideration of the Government. It is proposed that this Committee, when constituted, will formulate the policy for integration of Family Welfare with other social welfare and developmental activities.

(c) Yes Sir ; the Central Family Welfare Council with Health Ministers of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as Members, has already been functioning under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare to review the progress of Family Welfare Programme periodically and to advice the Government on formulation of Policies and Programmes.

(d) Yes Sir ; Voluntary Organisations are being actively involved in the promotion of Family Welfare Programmes for providing information, education and communication as well as services to the people.

Electification Schemes Throughout the Country During 1985-86.

662. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) how many electrification schemes are proposed to be undertaken throughout the country by railways during 1985-86 ; and

(b) how many of them come under Southern Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). In addition to the electrification of Dhaulpur-

Itarsi-Nagpur-Vijayawada, Godhra-Ratlamⁿ Gangapur City-Mathura, Bhusawal-Nagpur-Drug, Chandrapura Complex and Katpadi-Jolarpettai Sections, where the electrification works are in progress, electrification of Tundla-Agra-Bayana and Champa-Gevra Road Sections have been approved during 1985-86 as new schemes.

Out of the above schemes, electrification of Katpadi-Jolarpettia section falls on the Southern Railway, and electrification works on this section are expected to be completed during 1985-86.

Electirification of Railway Line in Kerala

663. **PROF. P. J. KURIEN :**

SHRI T. BASHEER :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimate has been made about the total cost of electrification of railway lines in Kerala ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether it is a fact that Kerala is one of the very few States where not a single line has so far been electrified ;

(d) if so, whether Government have any proposal to undertake electrification of at least some sectors in Kerala ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mountaineering Teams for Himalayan Expedition

664. **SHRI MADAN PANDEY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) how many mountaineering teams participated in the Everest expedition this year and the number of climbers died

during these expeditions and the factors responsible for their deaths ; and

(b) whether Government have ascertained the causes of their death and taken measures to avoid such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

According to the information available, the only Indian expedition which attempted to scale the Everest during the year was put up by the Army Adventure Foundation, a voluntary organisation registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1960. The expedition consisted of 33 members. Five members of the team died during the expedition. One climber died due to a fall on 7.10.85 and four others died due to a combination of exhaustion, dehydration and blizzard conditions on the night of 10/11th October, 1985.

2. Adventure as a sport implies a high risk factor especially in mountaineering. Participation in such activities is on purely voluntary basis. Mountaineering expeditions, particularly those attempting to scale the Everest are expected to include persons who are highly skilled and are also fully aware of the risks involved. In such voluntary endeavours involving high risk, the participants are expected to take the necessary measures for their safety themselves.

Inquiry into Disturbances in National Book Fair 1985 in Patna

665. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry have received any memorandum/letter for conducting an inquiry into the disturbances created in the National Book Fair organised in Patna in the beginning of October, 1985 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the inauguration of this fair organised by National Book Trust was postponed by one day and if so, the reason thereof ;

(c) whether many reports have been published about corruption, favouritism and irregularities prevailing in the Trust : and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a high level inquiry into these matters and appoint a new Chairman as early as possible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The inauguration of the National Book Fair was postponed by one day. The Chairman National Book Trust has appointed a committee to inquire into the reasons for the postponement of the National Book Fair held at Patna in October, 1985.

(c) and (d) Reports have appeared in Newspapers making critical observations about the working of the National Book Trust. The activities and programmes of the Trust are reviewed by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees periodically. The Government, therefore, does not propose to appoint a Committee to inquire into the affairs of N.B.T. A new Chairman of the Trust is likely to be appointed shortly.

[English]

Facilities for Male Patients at Sucheta Kripalani Hospital

666. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of the Resident Doctors Association and the students of the Lady Harding Medical College and associated hospitals, New Delhi have been demanding provision of facilities for male patients at the Sucheta Kripalani Hospital and ensuring minimum requirements of a medical college hospital like proper casualty, emergency ward, intensive care unit, coronary care unit, blood bank and safe water supply ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the problems ; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter ?