

October, 1985, a small Committee consisting of representatives of concerned Ministries/Departments and STUs, is presently working on the details of the proposal.

**Inclusion of Orissa Coast Canal in Seventh Plan**

4274. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has requested the Centre to take over excavation and maintenance of Orissa Coast Canal to utilise it as water transport route;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to include this project in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d). if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up for the formulation of proposals relating to inland water transport for inclusion in the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-90), a scheme relating to the restoration of the Orissa Coast Canal to its original dimension by dredging as also to carry out repairs of locks to facilitate plying of different sizes of cargo boats had been recommended for inclusion in the Seventh Five-Year Plan under Centrally Sponsored Sector. However, in view of financial constraints, the scheme has not been included in the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

**Flyover at Kalsa Road level crossing near Burdwan Railway Junction (West Bengal)**

4275. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board propose to sanction a flyover at the Kalsa Road level crossing near Burdwan Railway Junction (West Bengal);

(b) whether it is a fact that as the level crossing gate at Kalsa Road remains closed for most of the time, people have to face much inconvenience; and

(c) whether it is a fact that construction of a flyover would expedite to the growth of Burdwan town eastward ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) This is matter which can be judged by State Government/Local Authority.

*[Translation]*

**Development of a Plant to Check Growth of Cancer Tissues**

4276. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the botanists of the Garhwal University have developed a rare species of plant whose root is considered to be helpful in checking the growth of cancer tissues; and

(b) is so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). The Garhwal University has reported that a plant called Podophyllum, locally known as Bankkai can be used as a remedy for Cancer. Field trials for its cultivation are in progress in that University.

*[English]*

**Passenger Amenities at Kiratpur Railway Station**

4277. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any appreciable increase in the loading and consequent earning at Kiratpur railway station on Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the increase in freight earning during the last three financial years including the current financial year;

(c) if so, whether any more passenger amenities have also been provided at this station in view of the increase in earnings;

(d) if so, the nature thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Do not arise in view of (b) above.

The station is already provided with adequate passenger amenities for the present level of passenger traffic.

However goods shed facilities are being improved.

**Review of Reservation Policy in Admission to Medical Colleges**

4278. SHRI JAGANATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Medical Association has urged the Government to review the reservation policy for admission to Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Association has also suggested that health and education be brought under the Union List to achieve uniformity in the two disciplines; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). The Indian Medical Association has urged the Government of India to review the reservation policy and phase out the provisions of reservation for admission to medical colleges within the next 10 to 12 years with a view to ensuring that merit becomes the sole criteria for admission to the medical colleges. The

Association has also urged to bring 'Health and Education' on the Central List to achieve uniformity in Health all over the country.

The concept of social justice and equality of opportunity permits of taking special measures for promoting the social, economic and educational advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to bring them on par and level of equality with the rest of the community. It is primarily on these premises that special safeguards have been provided in the Constitution for the social, educational and economic advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The reservation for SC/ST is, therefore, a constitutional requirement. For the backward and other classes, reservation is made by the State Governments on a local or regional basis inter-alia taking into consideration other constitutional requirements.

'Health Care' being the primary responsibility of the State Governments, the Government of India do not consider it necessary to bring 'Health and Education' on the Union List.

**Voluntary Organisations Offering help in Implementing Family Planning Programme**

4279. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any voluntary organisations have offered their services for implementing the family planning programme in the country;

(b) if so, the number and names of such organisations;

(c) the Central assistance provided to these agencies; and

(d) what other measures are being taken by Government to implement the programme of family planning in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) A large number of Voluntary Organisations are involved in the implementation of Family Welfare Programme.