

(c) if so, whether any scheme has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). There are a large number of programmes in the Health sector which have been drawn on the basis of the reports of the Expert Groups set up by the planning Commission for the preparation of the Seventh Five-Year Plan. We are implementing programmes relating to the control of communicable diseases, Re-orientation of Medical Education, Medical Research, Indian Systems of Medicine, Rural Health Services on the basis of the strategy outlined in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. The nation is committed to attain the goal of Health for All by the year 2000 and in the overall Health Development Programme, emphasis is being laid on preventive and promotive aspects and on organising effective and efficient health services which are easily and widely available.

Trains carrying foodgrains looted

4320. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of trains carrying foodgrains looted during the last three years ; and

(b) whether these trains were escorted by armed personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Only one case of looting has been reported during the year 1985-86, in which foodgrains worth Rs. 9720/- was looted by about 50 miscreants, out of which foodgrains worth Rs. 1600/- was recovered.

(b) Yes, Sir. This train was escorted by two armed constables of the Railway Protection Force.

[Translation]

Legislation for compensation to customers for harm caused by substandard drugs

4321. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make necessary amendment in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act so that customers can claim compensation from the company concerned for the harm caused to them by substandard medicines;

(b) if so, the time by which this amendment is likely to be made; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (c). So far as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder are concerned there is no proposal to amend these to provide for the payment of compensation to the consumers for the harm caused to them by substandard medicines.

The Ministry is of the view that this scheme may *not* be practicable in India. It would be difficult to identify cases of damage due to substandard drugs only, particularly when people in India quite often take drugs without consulting medical practitioners.

Financial constraints in spreading education in States

4322. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be please to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a number of States education is not receiving attention as it deserves;

(b) if so, whether there are financial constraints in the way of spreading education in these States in a proper way;