

(b) the reasons for the high percentage of blindness; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the high incidence of blindness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) As per survey carried out in 1971-73 by the ICMR, the estimated number of blind population is nine million.

(b) The main reasons for high percentage of blindness are:

- (i) shortage of ophthalmic personnel for rendering eye-care.
- (ii) low level of nutrition and personal hygiene and lack of awareness about the general eye care among the people.

(c) National Programme for control of blindness was launched in the year 1976. Following steps have been envisaged:

- (i) Immediate eye relief measures adopting eye camp approach.
- (ii) Development of eye-care services at peripheral intermediate & Central Sectors in a phased manner coupled with intensification of health education measures.

Upto the end of the VI Plan 2000 PHCs, 404 District Hospitals and 60 Medical Colleges have been covered under the programme in addition to the deployment of 80 Central and 30 District Mobile Units.

Loss of land due to sea erosion in Kerala

923. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) how many acres of land is lost in Kerala and other States due to sea erosion ;

(b) the steps taken to prevent sea erosion; and

(c) the financial aid given to Kerala and other States to prevent sea erosion of land ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARAN-AND) : (a) The precise details of the land area lost in Kerala and other States due to sea erosion are not available. However, as per assessment made by the Government of Kerala, about 320 km. out of total coastline of 560 km. was vulnerable to sea erosion.

(b) For protection from sea erosion, State Governments have been taking up construction of rubble mound sea walls and other anti-sea erosion works.

(c) A Central loan assistance of Rs. 37.12 crores has been provided to Kerala Government since 1972-73 for undertaking various anti-sea erosion works. Except Kerala, no other State has been given assistance for anti-sea erosion works.

Low consumption of Nutritional items

924. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumption standard of an average adult Indian is significantly lower than the nutritional requirement ; and

(b) if so, the average daily requirement and actual consumption per adult of main nutritional items like cereals, pulses, edible oils, vegetables, fruits, milk, sugar, fish, meat and eggs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) According to the surveys conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research through the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau, the calorie intake of the average adult Indian is lower than the recommended intake. However, the protein intake is found to be up to the recommended intake.

(b) The average daily requirement and consumption of the various foods is as under :

Food	Recommended allowances (ICMR) (Average daily requirement) (gms)	Average consumption (gms)
Cereals	460	498
Pulses	40	30
Leafy vegetable	40	23
Other vegetable	40	53
Roots & tubers	50	47
Fish & flesh foods	*	15
Fruits	—	21
Milk	150	78
Fats & oils	40	10
Sugar & jaggery	30	21

*In a non-vegetarian diet, 50% of the pulse can be reduced and substituted with one egg or 30 gms. meat, fish additional 5 gms. fat or oil.

Steps to prevent air accidents

925. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of deaths of pilots in air accidents has considerably increased since 1982;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent accidents; and

(c) the steps taken to provide quick relief to the next of the kins of the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, to prevent recurrence of aircraft accidents, safety recommendations emanating from various investigations are examined and effectively implemented. Air safety circulars/bulletins are also issued from time to time. Aerodromes are inspected periodically.

(c) Compensation to next of kin of the victims is provided by the concerned operators in accordance with relevant service condition and law.

Better railway network in Orissa

926. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa will soon have a better railway network connecting all the districts; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the plan of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) In Orissa State, the following New Lines are being progressed according to availability of resources.

1. Koraput-Rayagada.