

[*Translation*]

Financial assistance to public libraries

1024. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of financial assistance given by Government to public libraries established as registered societies or trusts ;

(b) the names of such societies and the financial assistance given to each of them during the last three years ; and

(c) the criteria followed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) Financial assistance is given on a sharing basis. The Central Government's share is 60% of the non-recurring expenditure for purchase of books, furniture & equipment, and 40% of the expenditure on construction of buildings for libraries. The maximum limit of Central Government assistance for an organisation is Rs. 50,000/-.

(b) As per Statement-I laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See LT No. 2835/86].

(c) As per Statement-II laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library, See LT No. 2835/86.)

[*English*]

Indigenous anti-Leprosy Vaccine

1025. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether anti-leprosy vaccine has been developed, field tested and released in the market as reported in the 'Statesman' dated 30 June, 1986 ;

(b) how many persons can be vaccinated with the present yearly production and what is the actual requirement ; and

(c) whether the vaccine would also be exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Research is in progress to develop Anti-Leprosy Vaccine. Presently three groups of scientists are involved in the effort. Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay has developed a vaccine from bacilli found in the tissues of leprosy patients which are cultivable and similar to causative leprosy bacilli. This vaccine has been cleared by the Drug Controller of India for Phase III clinical trials. Protocols are being finalised regarding this trial. After the results, decision would be taken on the use of this vaccine as an additional tool under National Leprosy Eradication Programme. Scientists of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi have developed and completed the pre-clinical toxicological study of Mycobacterium Vaccine. Permission of the Drug Controller of India for phase II and Phase III clinical trials is awaited. A third vaccine developed from killed *M. leprae* from Armadillo is also undergoing pre-clinical toxicological studies as per guidelines laid down by the I.C.M.R. Toxicological Evaluation Committee. The Anti-Leprosy vaccine has not been released in the market.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Withdrawal of first class coaches

1026. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have discontinued first class in trains on North Eastern Railway ;

(b) whether all the first class coaches have been withdrawn from most of the trains of Samastipur sub-division thereby causing inconvenience to first class passengers while