

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Six pairs of trains are at present available between Saintbia and Siuri which adequately meet the traffic requirements.

Free Education to Students

1427. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States and Union Territories which are supplying text books free of cost to the students reading in schools and colleges and the details thereof ; and

(b) the number of States and Union Territories which have made education free upto class Twelve (XII) and from which year and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) As per the Fourth All India Educational Survey as on 30.9.1978 all the States/UTs except Manipur, Sikkim and West Bengal had schemes which varying coverage for the free supply of textbooks to schools.

(b) According to the information available upto 1983-84, education is free upto XII class for all students in Government, local body and aided schools in West Bengal, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Dader and Nagar Haveli and only in Government schools in Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. From 1985-86 the Government of India has started a new scheme under which education of girls has been made free in classes IX to XII in all States/UTs, it being free already upto class VIII in most States/UTs.

Persons Suffering from Conjunctivitis

1428. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have asked for the reports regarding sufferers of a new disease 'conjunctivitis' ;

(b) if so, the names of such States and the number of persons suffered from this eye disease ; and

(c) whether Government have made any research in this regard and have tried the medicines which can be more successful to cure the sufferers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Conjunctivitis is not a notifiable disease and no statistics are maintained for the said disease.

(c) The research conducted at Dr. R.P. Centre indicated that the last epidemic was due to a virus infection. There is no specific treatment for viral conjunctivitis but the disease is self-limiting and does not cause serious effects.

Reconstruction of Mandovi Bridge in Goa

1429. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to reconstruct the Mandovi Bride near Panaji in Goa as the economy of the Union Territory has been affected due to lack of connecting bridge with the rest of the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The construction of parallel Mandov

Bridge in Goa stands included in the list of works to be sanctioned during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The proposed bridge at an estimated cost of Rs, 1207.18 lakhs shall be sited about 60 metres upstream of the existing bridge. The 890 m long bridge shall cater for two lanes of traffic and footpaths on either side for pedestrian traffic, designed as per National Highway standards.

Non-Availability of Orthopaedician in C.G.H.S. Wing of Safdarjung Hospital

1430. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries have to queue up in the general Orthopaedic OPD in Safdarjung Hospital causing hardship and inconvenience to them ;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to depute Orthopaedician in CGHS Block and if not, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether any headway has been made in providing Nursing Home in Safdarjung Hospital and opening of modern polyclinics in Government residential colonies like R.K. Puram ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) There is a separate Registration counter and Examination cubicle exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries in the Orthopaedic Department of Safdarjung Hospital. As such, the beneficiaries are not required to queue up in the General OPD for Orthopaedic facilities.

(c) At present the Government has no proposal to open a Nursing Home in Safdarjung Hospital or Polyclinics in Government residential colonies.

[Translation]

Editorial Board of Bhagirath

1431. DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of the Editorial Board of "Bhagirath" with their educational qualification etc;

(b) the guidelines laid down in regard to constitution/reconstitution of the Editorial Board of "Bhagirath";

(c) whether the guidelines have been followed in regard to the present Editorial Board and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether any time-bound programme has been chalked out in order to implement the decision taken by the Board and the time by which they will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :

(a) The requisite information is given in the statement given below.

(b) The functions and duties of the Editorial Boards are to provide guidelines for improvement of the Journals. The Editorial Boards are constituted/re-constituted keeping in view the above functions of the Boards.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Editorial Boards have made certain recommendations/suggestions regarding conversion of the Journals from quarterly to monthly, increasing the amount of honorarium to the contributors, making January, 1987 Issue as a Special Issue on Madhya Pradesh etc. The suggestions of the Board would be considered by the Central Water Commission and administrative decisions taken thereon.