

(a) whether a workshop on Laser neuro-surgery was recently held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken in regard to neuro-surgery in this workshop; and

(c) whether the decisions taken will be laid on the Table of the House and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various speakers discussed the applicability of Laser and Ultrasonic aspirator with regard to their use in Neurosurgery. Most of the speakers agreed that Laser and Ultrasonic aspirator have a great role to play. Most of the tumors especially vascular tumors can be removed with ease. It is of particular use in basal meningiomas, acoustic neuroma, thalamic tumors, brainstem and spinal cord tumours. Use of these high-tech equipments reduces the blood required during surgery, increased the safety margin by decreasing the need for manipulation within the brain and spinal cord and tumor in the depth can be removed more safely.

(c) The Government of India have not yet received the recommendations of the Workshop on Laser Neuro-Surgery. The question of placing the decision on the Table of the House does not, therefore, arise.

[*English*]

Financial Assistance From Japan For Improvement in Shipping

2049. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has recently taken a decision to give financial assistance for improvement in shipping;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the assistance; and

(c) if so, the amount so received and the terms and conditions on which it has been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) There is no information available with Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Afforestation Programme

2050. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(b) whether the afforestation programme has been scaled down heavily; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Reservation Services

2051. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after a dramatic improvement in railway bookings due to computerisation, the present position and service is fast deteriorating in the capital and elsewhere; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. There has been a perceptible improvement in railway bookings after computerisation.

(b) Does not arise.