

dles into the patient's body is proposed to be imported;

(c) whether American scientists themselves are doubtful about the success of the said vaccine because of no firm opinion of their own regarding the same;

(d) if so, whether Government had considered this aspect before entering into an agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has not come across any News item "Nirog ke Naam par ho Raha Hai Maut Ka Ayat". However, the Government of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the conceptual frame work of Vaccine Action Programme. This programme envisages upgradation of present technology and development of new technologies in respect of several vaccines against communicable diseases widely prevalent in India and those of interest to the country.

(c) to (e) While signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Government, Government of India had taken into consideration every aspect of the matter. Only vaccines against diseases of major public health importance in India will be selected. Their selection will also be dependent upon evidence of efficacy in laboratory investigation and freedom from adverse reaction. Each Vaccine proposed for inclusion will be carefully screened by Indian experts before deciding on the issue.

[English]

'Rapidly Dwindling of Forest in Orissa'

2970. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the forest in Orissa are dwindling rapidly and if the present rate of denudation continues, barely 5 percent of the States total geographical area will remain under 'closed forests' by the end of this century;

(b) whether Union Government have sought any report from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the co-operation that has been extended by Government in this regard to Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) According to the survey carried out by National Remote Sensing Agency using satellite imagery, the loss of forest cover in state of Orissa during the period 1972-75 to 1980-82 was 8958 Km² which amounts to 5.8% of the geographical area of the State. The Forest Survey of India has estimated that for the period 1981-83, the area under 'closed forests' and 'open forests' was 18.3% and 15.6% respectively, of the geographical area of the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ilmenite Places Deposits

2971. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is known since 1945 that ilmenite places deposits exist along the Konkan coast of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the surveys by the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) along the Jaigad-Vijaydurg sector of Konkan coast have revealed substantial ilmenite deposits;

(c) if so, whether plans have been prepared for probing the reserves by drilling bore-holes;

(d) if so, the year by which the reserves are likely to be exploited commercially; and

(e) the plans for setting up of industries in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Revenue from Freight Traffic

2972. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the achievement of revenue earning from freight traffic during the period April-September, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : The total earnings from freight traffic during the period April to September, 1987 is Rs. 2913.63 crores.

Implementation of Chattopadhaya Commission Report

2973. SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action on implementation of the recommendations made by Chattopadhaya Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which these recommendations have been implemented; and

(c) if not, the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) The National Commission on Teachers I (Chat-

topadhaya Commission) submitted its report on 26.3.1985. The Government appointed an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary on 16.10.1985 with a view to examining the recommendations made by the National Commission on Teachers-I. Meanwhile, Government started the formulation of New Education Policy. Since important issues considered by the Commission were also under consideration in the New Education Policy, it was decided to withhold examination of the recommendations.

Based on the recommendations of the NCT-I and the views of the Empowered Committee thereon, as also the postulates of National Education Policy, 1986, Government have revised the pay-scales of school teachers working in Union Territories and the Central autonomous bodies. Besides, several recommendations of NCT-I have also been covered under the National Policy on Education, 1986 and the Programme of Action formulated by the Ministry which are under various stages of implementation. Accordingly, action has already been taken on as many as 56 recommendations. In respect of the remaining recommendations, the Empowered Committee which has since been reconstituted is examining them. Based on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee, appropriate action will be taken by the Government.

Captive Breeding of Otter

2974. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for captive breeding of otter has been launched by the Karnataka Forest Department;

(b) if so, the main features of the programme;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided to the State Government for implementing this programme; and