

(a) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Seventeen incidents of gas leakages have come to the notice of the Central Government during the current year. Several people were affected to a minor extent and were discharged after treatment for one or two days.

(c) The steps taken include the following:

- (i) Manufacturing processes are stopped till thorough inspection is conducted by factories inspectorate and clearance accorded for restarting.
- (ii) State Pollution Control Boards issue orders restraining the industry from operation till thorough checking is done by factory inspectorate, State Pollution Control Boards and any other committee constituted by the respective authorities of the State.
- (iii) The State Governments have in most cases set up committees to identify the hazardous industries in the State.

(d) and (e) All units cannot be shifted. Each case has to be decided on individual circumstances.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

3058. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Leprosy Eradication Programme has failed either to minimise the incidence of the disease or is anywhere near complete eradication;

(b) whether all activities of this programme are mainly concentrated in the urban areas whereas 75 per cent of the population live in rural areas;

(c) if so, how urban and rural areas, with population break up, are being covered under the programme; and

(d) whether Government propose to pay special attention to the rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All detected leprosy cases irrespective of urban or rural base are covered under the programme. National Leprosy Eradication Programme is a vertical programme and implemented as hundred percent Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Combinations of drugs (MDT) have been found highly effective. 201 districts in the country are identified as endemic districts. Due to logistic, financial and operational reasons MDT to endemic districts is planned in a phased manner taking district as a unit. As on 48 endemic districts are under MDT and 26 are planned for current year. All endemic distts. Will be covered by MDT by 1995.

Late Running of Trains

3059. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI
GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the late running of trains is monitored regularly with a view to find out the contributory causes;

(b) if so, the result of the study for the last six months;

(c) the railways zones where the punctuality has improved as also the zones where it has deteriorated; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main factors found responsible for the late running of trains were alarm chain pulling agitations/bandhs, accidents and failures of diesel and signal equipments.

(c) On South Eastern, North East Frontier, Southern, South Central and Western Railway, the punctuality has improved. On Central, Northern, Eastern and North Eastern, it has deteriorated.

(d) Intensive chasing and round the clock monitoring of Mail/Express trains is being done.

German Technology for Steel Production

3060. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is considering to adopt a German technology which will reduce cost of production of steel;

(b) whether it is the same technology which the Tata Iron and Steel Company had adopted years ago;

(c) if so, the reasons why this could not be done by the Steel Authority of India Limited earlier; and

(d) whether it is a different technology; if so, the details with regard to its investment and the cost benefit ratio that would be at the production level?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) SAIL have

already adopted the KORF technology for induction of oxygen/air in open hearth furnaces which improves productivity and helps to reduce the cost of production of steel.

(b) and (c) TISCO introduced this technology in March, 1987 as a sub-license of SAIL who had initiated the transfer of this technology from M/s Korteck. SAIL introduced it in Rourkela in April 1987 and is planning to introduce it in IISCO.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of a Local Train between Asansol and Bardhaman

3061. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce one more local train from Asansol to Bardhaman;

(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) Does not arise.

(c) There is lack of spare line capacity and inadequacy of terminal facilities at Asansol as well as Bardhaman.

[Translation]

Increase in Skin Disease due to use of Soap and Detergent Powders

3062. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government so far in regard to the apprehensions of increase in the incidence of skin disease by using soaps and detergent powders in the country;