

(b) if so, where and since how long and the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) (a) and (b) Hepatitis-B Vaccine is no more under development in research as plasma derived recombinant DNA Hepatitis-B Vaccine (Yeast Derived) have already been produced and marketed in Western countries Presently Hepatitis-B Vaccine is imported in our country for use in high risk group Production of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in India is under consideration

Development of Computer for Blind by Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

9796 DR G VIJAYA RAMA RAO Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether a computer for blind has been developed at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore,

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results of field trials,

(c) the cost of each unit and the number of units manufactured and sold in the country so far, and

(d) whether Government propose to provide the above computer to various organisations in the country engaged in the task of providing relief and training to the blind?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) (a) and (b) A Braille trainer computer to facilitate self-learning of Braille has been developed by a student of the Institute This equipment is organised to teach blind people typing using a conventional key-board and a Braille type-writer Only a laboratory model has so far been made and the preliminary results are encouraging.

(c) and (d). Since a prototype to enable mass production is yet to be developed, these questions do not arise.

Suggestion to Discontinue Mass Inoculation against Cholera

9797 SHRI SRI HARI RAO
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA.
SHRI SUBASH YADAV
SHRI M RAGHUMA REDDY

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

(a) whether an expert Committee of immunologists and other medical scientists has recommended discontinuation of mass inoculation against cholera,

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made, and

(c) the alternative measures proposed to be taken to save people from this dreaded disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) (a) and (b) A meeting of the Group of Experts was held at New Delhi on 29.1.1988 to review the efficacy of cholera vaccine and its use in natural calamities such as floods and drought and routine public health practices The Group recommended as under;

-- routine anticipatory cholera inoculation in public health practice is of little use and be discontinued

-- Cholera vaccination is not recommended to combat the epidemic it had occurred since it neither contains the spread of disease nor saves the lives of affected persons and distracts the attention and resources of health authorities from much needed and effective environmental control measures including health education,

-- cholera vaccination facilities can continue to be provided on demand on a voluntary basis at all hospitals and health centres;

-- as an adjunct to the other important

control measures, cholera inoculation, if resources permit, could be undertaken in two doses schedule, if the population threatened is limited and it is feasible to administer vaccine to nearly all the threatened persons and particularly wherever there is disruption of normal living and breakdown of environmental provisions such as in refugee camps or labour camps at construction sites.

(c) Drugs used in the treatment of specific cases of acute diarrhoeal disease including cholera are available indigenously in addition to rehydration therapy. DRS packets are made available through village Health Guides, Primary Health Centres/Hospitals. Rural community are being educated to construct low-cost sanitary toilets for safe disposal of human excreta. Food sanitation, personal hygiene and basic sanitation are being improved.

Retrenchment of Casual Labour in Gujarat

9798. SHRI SRI HARI RAO:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI SUBASH YADAV:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 200 casual labourers were retrenched recently by the Railways after completion of various projects during the last ten years in Gujarat State and they have not been given alternate jobs in Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Union Government propose to re-employ them to feed their families; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). On completion of Railway Electrification Project work on

Vadodara-Ratlam Section of Vadodara Division about 100 project casual labour of Electrical Department and 30 project casual labour of Stores Department have been retrenched.

(c) These casual labourers are borne on the seniority list of project casual labour of respective departments of Vadodara Division. Their re-engagement will be considered by the Railway Administration according to their turn in the respective seniority list on availability of further work for which project casual labour may be required.

(d) Does not arise.

Drinking water at Railway Stations

9799. SHRI SRI HARI RAO:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foul drinking water is being supplied at various railway stations in the country;

(b) whether any complaint in this regard has been received; and

(c) the steps taken for the supply of pure drinking water at railway stations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(c) Sample testing of drinking water supplied at Railway Stations is carried out periodically for residual chlorine and harmful bacteria.

[Translation]

Supply of Bed-Rolls in Trains

9800. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: