

Metro Railway is under examination.

(b) (1) Operation of an intra-urban transportation system, like the Calcutta Metro Railway, is different from the normal Railway functions.

(ii) In the interest of efficiency, all modes of city transport should function in an integrated manner, under a single transport authority. Setting up of Calcutta Metro Railway Authority would be a step in that direction.

[*Translation*]

Precautions Against Baby Change Incident in Delhi Hospitals

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

(a) whether a number of incidents of changing of babies in hospitals of Delhi often have been reported in the past few years;

(b) whether some gangs engaged in changing babies are in collusion with the hospital employees; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). Cases of missing/kidnapping of children have been reported. However, this is the first case of alleged swapping of babies that has come to the notice of the Government. The matter has been handed over to police for investigation.

(c) The Directorate General of Health Services has issued guidelines on 16th February, 1988 to safeguard against the possibility of exchange of babies.

[*English*]

Change in Definition of Death to Facilitate Organ Transport

499. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a larger body of medical practitioners is pressing for a change in the definition of death to facilitate organ transport;

(b) whether in the West, death is a state when brain stops functioning even if the heart might be beating;

(c) whether Government have sought the opinions of the expert medical practitioners in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). In the meeting of the Expert Group Sub-Committee for drafting the National (Indian) Tissue Transplantation Bill consequent upon the first National Workshop on Tissue Transplantation held on the 4th March, 1987, under the Chairmanship of Additional Director General of Health Services (Medical) Dte. General of Health Services New Delhi on 14th August, 1987, the question of definition of death including brain death was inter-alia, discussed. For the purpose of donation of vital organs to facilitate the transplantation of irreparable damaged organs, it was desired in the meeting that if the definition of death is taken as (i) Complete cessation of respiratory and cardiac activities or complete cessation activity of entire brain to be certified by a qualified R.M.P. in the approved institutions. Some of the members were of the view along with the