

(a) whether prices of steel in the country have been increased considerably recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have also considered some other measures to check the losses of these establishments instead of increasing the price;

(d) whether it is a fact that production of steel has increased in the country during the last two years; and

(e) if so, its effect on cost of production and the reasons for not extending the benefits of this increased production to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The average price of steel has been increased by 15.6% from 24th December, 1987.

(b) Prices were increased to cover the increased cost of inputs such as power, coal & fuel and railway freight.

(c) Improvement in capacity utilisation, productivity and techno-economic norms are receiving special attention.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) While improvement in the capacity utilisation through increased production does result in cost reduction, it has not been possible to absorb fully the increased costs of all inputs.

[*Translation*]

Review of Computerisation Plan

529. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has asked the Ministry of Railways to review its computerisation plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons for it and the future plan in this regard?

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

(b) Planning Commission has set up a committee to review the telecommunication segment of the computerised Freight Operations Information System. As regards computerised Passenger Reservation Systems, Planning Commission has, in the context of resource constraints, asked the Railways to confine the systems to the metropolitan cities.

Further discussions with the Planning Commission on these issues are in progress.

[*English*]

National Oral Health Programme

530. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI N.N. NANJE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether Government have recently considered a National Oral Health Programme and if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) whether a large percentage of child

population in the country is suffering from teeth disease;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e). Some studies at micro-levels have made attempts to determine prevalence of dental caries and periodontal disease, correlate the various aetiological factors e.g. dental plaque, sugar, oral hygiene status, brushing efficiency etc., with oral diseases. But on the whole, an integrated information of planned systematic studies on the inter-relationship of various etiological factors with dental caries and periodontal diseases is not available.

The available data from some studies indicate that nearly 90% of the children and 95-100% of the adults suffer from oral disorders e.g. dental caries and periodontal diseases in India. In order to remedy the situation, the Government has decided to launch a Dental Health Care Programme during the 7th Five Year Plan period, which provides for the preventive dental health care to rural population on a pilot basis only through the agency of Dental Hygienists.

[*Translation*]

Special scheme for Education and Employment of people of Border States

531. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated

a special scheme to provide education and employment opportunities to the people of the four border States of the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the scheme during the next financial year in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) to (c). The Scheme of Border Area Development (Education) Programme which covers the four border States of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat lays emphasis on overall human resource development and the strategy is that the sections of the people who have remained deprived of educational and developmental opportunities receive priority. Under the Scheme, funds are provided to the State Governments for opening new schools, providing essential facilities to schools, setting up of non-formal educational centers (all for achieving universalisation of elementary education), setting up of Adult Education Centres, establishment of Polytechnics and ITIs for making people employable by equipping them with sound technical skills and for youth programmes and programmes of cultural development. A provision of Rs. 35.50 crores has been proposed for the scheme during the next financial year.

[*English*]

Cancellation of Executive, Tea Garden, Himsagar and Cochin - Ahmedabad Express

532. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: