

lands for construction of houses and the request was not agreed to.

**Navodaya Vidyalaya in palghat
District of Kerala**

8789. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Navodaya Vidyalaya set up in Palghat district of Kerala; and

(b) if no Vidyalaya has been set up, the time by which it is proposed to be set up ?

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 Navodaya Vidyalaya has been sanctioned to be established at Village Agali in Palghat District of Kerala during 1988-89.

New Technique to combat cataract

8790. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :

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

(a) whether according to news item appearing in the "Patriot" dated 16 September, 1987, about 10 million people have gone blind in the country due to cataract;

(b) whether the World Lens Project has developed a new technique for combating the cataract;

(c) if so, whether the technique will be tried in India; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHARPADE: (a) ICMR Survey of 1971-73, estimated 9 million blind people in the country at that time, out of which 55% were estimated to be blind due to cataract.

However, fresh National Survey on blindness is currently in progress.

(b) This Ministry is not aware of any new technique developed by world Lens Project for combating cataract.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

**Allotment of Bookstalls on Western
and other Zonal Railways**

8791. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI U.H. PATEL ;
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMA-
BENRAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bookstalls allotted on Western Railway and other zonal railways during the last three years alongwith the break-up of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, widows, war widows, handicapped and ex-servicemen;

(b) the procedure followed for allotment of bookstalls to such categories; and

(c) the details of plan for allotment of such bookstalls during 1988-89 on Western Railway and other zonal railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Allotment of bookstalls is done by the zonal railways. Applications for allotment of bookstalls are called for from eligible categories and allotment is made after scrutiny by a screening committee of officers and approval by competent authority.

(c) No such plan is chalked-out. Allotment is made as and when vacancies arise.

[Translation]

**Passenger Amenities at Sagar
Railway Station**

8792. SHRI NANDLAL CHOU-
DHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :