

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c). State-wise statistics of exports are not maintained. A number of steps have been taken by the Government to encourage exports of handloom products such as increase in Cash Compensatory Support, assistance for market exploration etc. The handloom exporters of the North Eastern States like Manipur and Assam can also take advantage of these facilities.

Shifting of Trichur State Zoo

3775. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received for shifting the State Zoo at Trichur, Kerala to a new site, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have agreed to the proposal and if so, the site selected for the purpose; and

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred in shifting and putting up the zoo at the new site?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Government of Kerala have requested the Government of India to permit the shifting of the Trichur Zoo to a site in a reserve forest near Peechi.

(b) No, sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Posts of Additional Director General of Health Services

3776. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two posts of Additional Director General of health Services are lying vacant for quite a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, vacant posts of Additional Director General of Health Services are being operated at the level of Supertime Grade Officers.

(b) and (c). The posts of Additional Director General of Health Services have not been filled up so far due to non-finalisation of amendment of Central Health Service Rules, 1982 and seniority issue relating to a few eligible officers. Expeditious action will be taken for filling up these posts after these issues are settled.

Mesothelioma in sugarcane Workers

3777. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that asbestos-like fibres of biogenic silica have been detected in sugarcane;

(b) whether Mesothelioma, a fatal lung disease, normally found in asbestos workers had also been diagnosed in Indian sugarcane workers not exposed to asbestos;