

The relevant report has highlighted a number of constraints and difficulties being faced by the Hospital in providing the desired quality of medical services to indoor and out-door patients. The condition of this Hospital is being continuously reviewed by Government. To remove the congestion in the existing government hospitals in Delhi, it has been decided to construct nine peripheral hospitals around Delhi and introduce the required systems—improvement to tone up the administration and delivery of services.

#### Blind population by 2000 AD

769. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

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

(a) whether the number of the blinds is expected to double by the year 2000; and

(b) if so, steps proposed to combat such a situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) According to the survey carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1971-73, the number of blind persons in the country is estimated at 9 million. A fresh survey to assess the magnitude of the problem is being planned. It may be possible to project the quantum of blindness by the year 2000 AD after the survey is completed.

(b) To tackle the problem of blindness in the country, the Government of India have launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in the year 1976-77. The Programme envisages extension of immediate eye relief measures for the needy in rural areas adopting 'eye-camp approach' besides phased development of permanent eye care facilities at various levels coupled with intensification of health education measures and manpower development activities. The ultimate aim is to reduce blindness from 1.4% in 1975 to 0.5% by 2000 A.D.

#### New rail link from Darwaha to Bhokar

770. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey has been conducted for a new rail link from Darwaha in Vidharbha to Bhokar in Nanded district in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what is the progress of the survey;

(c) whether traffic survey also has been conducted simultaneously; and

(d) how much amount has been spent on this project since 1983 to this date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Overall progress of Reconnaissance Engineering cum traffic survey for a Broad Gauge line between Darwaha, Motibagh nad Bhokar is about 35%.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the survey upto 31.12.1985 is Rs. 6.32 lakhs.

#### Air India Flight to Toronto

771. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has yet to resume its flight to Toronto (Canada) which was suspended following crash of 'Kanishka';

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the weekly loss being suffered by Air India as a result thereof and the extent of expenses being incurred by Government on the idle staff; and

(c) when the Air India flight to Toronto is likely to be resumed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reason for not resuming ope-