

Preparation of Herbal Contraception

3346. SHRI V. P. PERIASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Santhal Tribes use a herbal preparation for both short-terms and long-term contraception (a survey conducted by the SC and ST Welfare Department has revealed); and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to popularise this indigenous method of family control?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) and (b). The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha deputed a Survey Team to Bastar area for a period of three months from December 1978 to February 1979 to explore the medico-botanical potential and to collect information on socio-religious systems and practices prevalent among the local Tribes and Folk recipes. The team is yet to submit its report.

Fire in Varanasi Express

3347. SHRI SHANKER SINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the compartments of the Varanasi Express caught fire at Delhi Railway Junction on the 19th February, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that a lot of luggage belonging to passengers has been damaged due to fire;

(c) if so, the loss to the Railways and the passengers;

(d) the causes of the fire; and

(e) whether the Railways propose to compensate the passengers for the loss of their luggage in fire and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARIAN): (a) Yes.

(b) The luggage of some of the passengers was damaged.

(c) The cost of damage to railway property has been estimated at approximately Rs. 53,760/-. The exact loss incurred by the passengers can be estimated only when the claims are received and settled.

(d) The cause of fire is under investigation.

(e) Only one claim for loss of luggage as a result of this accident has so far been received and the same is pending. All such claims are decided by the Ex-officio Claims Commissioner under the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. Payment is arranged by the Railway Administration on the basis of the verdict of the court.

Shortage of X-Ray Films in Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital

3348. SHRI SARAT KAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of medical x-ray films in the country particularly in the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital; and

(b) if so, steps Government has taken to meet the demand for such films?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) There is no shortage of medical X-Ray films in the country particularly in the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital.

(b) Does not arise.