

Under Utilisation of In-door Beds in Primary Health Centres

7166. PROF. N. G. RANGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is under-utilisation of in-door beds in the Primary Health Centres and if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) the type of patients treated in the out-door and in-door Department of the Primary Health Centres;

(c) whether any evaluation study of the effectiveness of the services rendered by the Primary Health Centres to the community has been undertaken at any stage; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) In some areas the in-door beds provided in the Primary Health Centres are under-utilised as the PHCs do not have adequate diagnostic facilities e.g. Laboratories, X-Ray etc. and are also not equipped to treat serious and complicated cases.

(b) The Primary Health Centres attend to all types of common ailments and refer to the hospital such cases which require investigations and/or specialised treatment.

(c) and (d). No systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of the services rendered by the Primary Health Centres has been undertaken. Such a study would become feasible only when an effective Health Information System is built up to establish the mortality and morbidity patterns of communicable and other diseases.

Visit of French Foreign Secretary

7167. SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Secretary of the French Foreign Min-

istry have visited India and had discussed with the authorities here; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Secretary-General of the French Foreign Office held discussions with officials of the Ministry of External Affairs on 18th and 19th July, 1980.

(b) The discussions were part of the continuing dialogue between India and France. There was an exchange of views on the current international situation, with particular reference to the situation in our neighbourhood as well as in Europe.

Sonarpur Golabari Line

7168. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to construct a Railway line from Sonarpur to Golabari of 24 Parganas in West Bengal as a part of development of this backward area and also to attract tourists to Sunderbans;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the need of this area to put up a Railway line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Sonarpur is already linked with Canning by a BG railway line. The traffic survey for construction of 20 kms. long Canning-Golabari BG rail link conducted in 1975 revealed that this rail link with electric traction was estimated to cost Rs. 1.91 crores at 1975 prices (the present day cost being Rs. 2.80 crores). The survey also revealed that the proposed line has not been found to be financially viable in the absence of adequate traffic, the return being 3.2 per cent with non-suburban fares and 2.6 per cent with suburban fares.