

Incidents of Oral Cancer in India

1399. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organization Chief of Oral Health Unit said in Bombay in January, 1980 that the incidence of oral cancer is an alarming problem in India;

(b) if so, the steps which Government have taken to establish preventive and curative units for accidental diseases in India; and

(c) what is the available dental man-power ratio in the Country and the target desirable to attend to the problem of oral cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Cancer of the oral cavity is the commonest cancer encountered in the males in India. It is also a frequent cancer in the females. Hospital data from various cancer centres in the country indicate a frequency of 30 to 35 per cent of all cancers encountered.

(b) As the reason for high incidence for oral cancer is mainly the habit of tobacco, betel leaf, arecanut and lime chewing as well as the smoking of beedies and chutta, the dental sepsis has only a secondary part of play. Further, since the management of oral cancer falls within the purview of the Radiation Oncologists and present day dental surgeons have neither the background and training nor the facility to treat oral cancers, a section of experts are of the view that the establishment of dental surgical units will not in any way solve the problem of

oral cancer. However, under the cancer Research and Treatment Programme the Govt. of India has recently sanctioned a scheme titled 'Establishment of Early Cancer Detection Centres' under which rental assistance to the extent of Rs. 50,000 is given to States/Voluntary Institutions for establishment of Early Cancer Detection Centres.

(c) The available dental man-power ratio in the country at present is approximately 1 : 85,482 as compared to the desired norm of 1: 30000 recommended by the Mudaliar Committee, in 1961.

Crime committed in Railways

1400. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:
SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOU-
DHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of crimes committed on Railways during 1978, 1979 and from January to May, 1980;

(b) whether Government are considering several means to ensure safety of railway passengers and railway goods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the machinery which will be responsible for its implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The total number of crimes committed on Railways during 1978, 1979 and from January to May, 1980; are as under:

Nature of crime	1978	1979	January to May, 1980.
Murder in trains		32	23
Dacoity in trains		67	68
Robbery in trains		156	185
Theft of passenger's luggage in trains	10174	8409	3231

(b) and (c). Yes Policing being a State subject under the Constitution, the responsibility of ensuring safety of passengers and their belongings rests with Government Railway Police functioning under the State Governments. All important and vulnerable passenger trains are provided with police escorts for prevention and detection of crimes in trains. Railways maintain close liaison with State Police authorities at all levels and render necessary assistance whenever required. About 2,000 R.P.F. personnel have been deployed to assist Government Railway Police in escorting passenger trains, to deter criminals and instil confidence among the travelling public. TTEs/Attendants/Conductors have instructions to remain vigilant to prevent entry of unauthorised persons in reserved coaches. A cell under a D.I.G./Chief Security Officer, (anti-dacoity) is being created in the Railway Board to strengthen measures from the railway side to deal with this problem i.e. by way of rendering assistance to the State Police.

So far as the safety of railway goods is concerned, following preventive measures are being taken:

1. Trains carrying valuable consignments/food-grains are escorted by Railway Protection Force in vulnerable sections.
2. Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed for track patrolling in vulnerable sections/ places.
3. Important and vulnerable yards are patrolled round the clock and guarded by armed R.P.F. personnel.
4. Yards vulnerable for high incidents of theft are patrolled by R.P.F. and Dog Squad.
5. Staff of crime intelligence branches of Zonal Railways and Central Crime Bureau of Railway Board are deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view

to tracking down criminals/ receivers of stolen property and also to arrange raids.

6. Close co-ordination between R.P.F. and Government Railway Police is maintained to exchange crime intelligence.

Memo from Pensioners' Associations

1401. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pensioners' Associations of various Railway Divisions have submitted a memorandum to his Ministry giving their grievances and demands;

(b) if so, what are their main grievances and demands; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on each one of the above demands and when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No consolidated memorandum as such has been received from the Pensioners' Associations of various Divisions of the Indian Railways. However, demands have been received from various organisations of retired Railway employees seeking in general betterment of the pensionary benefits.

(b) and (c). A statement giving main demands of the retired railway employees together with the present position in respect thereof is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT -938/80].

Electrification of Mangalore-Kanyakumari Line

1402. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to electrify the Mangalore-Kanyakumari railway line in view of the offer made by the State Government