

2466. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Huge Production Loss due to curable blindness' appearing in the 'Indian Express' New Delhi dated the 10th October, 1980.

(b) whether, according to the W.H.O. Regional Director, for every person with curable blindness the loss to the nation is Rs. 10,000 in terms of capital cost ;

(c) whether any such type of study for other national disease control programme like Cholera, Malaria and other communicable diseases has been undertaken by his Ministry to measure the economic impact of these diseases in the country ;

(d) if so, the salient findings of such a study ;

(e) if not, whether there is any plan to extend the scope of such studies to all major communicable diseases in the country in view of the heavy plan allocation of funds earmarked in this respect ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) No study has been conducted to measure the precise loss to the nation in terms of capital cost for every person with curable blindness.

(c) and (d). Out of all the national disease control programmes in operation, only in the case of national malaria eradication programme has a study been undertaken by this Ministry to measure the economic impact of this disease. According to this study conducted in 1972, it was estimated that between 4.61 to 9.35 million mandays were saved in the country during 1959 to 1965 due to the implementation of this programme.

(e) and (f). There is no plan at present to conduct such long term studies to measure the economic impact of the major communicable diseases, keeping in view the huge funds required and the practical difficulties involved.

2777 I.S.—4

2467. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 175/176 Neelachal Express has been cancelled several times from 1-4-1980 till 1-10-1980;

(b) the dates of the cancellation of this train during the above period and the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by his Ministry to avoid such cancellation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). During the period 1-4-80 to 1-10-80 175 Up Neelachal Express was cancelled ex. Puri on 4 occasions and 176 Dn Neelachal Express ex. New Delhi on 6 occasions.

Ex. Puri the train was cancelled on 6-5-80 due to public agitation, on 12-8-80, 15-8-80 and 21-9-80 due to floods, breaches and heavy rains. Ex. New Delhi, 176Dn was cancelled on 8-5-80 due to public agitation, on 12-8-80, 14-8-80 and 28-8-80 due to breaches and on 21-9-80 and 23-9-80 due to strike by the U.P. State Electricity Board.

The causes were, therefore, beyond the control of the railways.

Multiplicities of Rules delay execution of Metro Railways, Calcutta

2468. DR. A. U. AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the section-wise progress so far made in the construction and execution of Metro Railways in Calcutta;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to multiplicities of rules, the execution of project programme is very much delayed;

(c) what further cooperation is being extended to the executing agencies involved in the project;

(d) whether the progress has been slow in some of its section; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to assist the contracting firms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The section-wise progress of works on Metro Railway Calcutta is as under:—