

Funds allocated for Nation's Health care Programme

1484. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per capita annual expenditure incurred by the Central and State Governments on Health Care Programmes Works out to Rs. 9/-.

(b) whether it is a fact that the meagre allocation of funds exposed Governments inability to produce results in the nation's health care programmes;

(c) whether Government are aware that inspite of increase of Medical Colleges and associated large hospitals from 17 to 110 since Independence, very meagre funds had been allotted for establishing medical facilities in smaller towns and taluks; and

(d) if so, the details of funds allotted for providing health care to masses in rural areas during the last decade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not so.

(d) Does not arise.

Coal and ash handling works

1485. SHRI A. K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal and ash handling works in Loco Sheds are of regular and permanent nature;

(b) if so, the reasons for not departmentalising these works;

(c) the reasons for not bringing these labourers under the Minimum Wages Act and the action taken by government to ensure payment of minimum wages to these labourers; and

(d) the names of loco sheds where Rs. 6.58 are paid as minimum wage and where less wage is paid to these labourers stating the reasons for discrimination?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b). Since the quantity of coal received in all steam locosheds is not uniform on all the 365

days of the year, coal loading/unloading and cinder picking work in locosheds on all the Railways is not of a perennial nature as also it does not provide whole-time employment for a large number of workmen. Besides, the pattern of traction is undergoing rapid changes and the gauge conversion is in progress with the result the points of transshipment/location of steam locosheds and the coal and ash handling requirements are shifting and the steam traction is being gradually replaced by electric/diesel traction.

(c) Employment in coal and/or ash handling in steam locosheds on the Indian Railways is not a Scheduled employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and as such the statutory minimum wage rate notified by the Central Government are inapplicable to such labour. According to the terms of agreement, contractors are required to pay their labour wages at rate which are payable to labour for similar work done in the neighbourhood.

(d) It is not obligatory on the contractors to pay their employees at Rs. 6.58 to labour employed on coal and ash handling work in locosheds except where the same rate is payable for similar work done in the neighbourhood.

Vansadhara Bridge in Orissa

1486. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry received survey and estimation report from the Government of Orissa regarding the major bridge near Gunupur town under inter State or economic importance scheme on river Vansadhara in Koraput District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). It is essentially a State project but the Government of India have agreed to provide a loan assistance of Rs. 108 lacs for the construction of this bridge work. The Orissa Government are required to send a detailed estimate for the bridge for the sanction of the Central Government which is still awaited. According to the State Govt., survey and investigation of the bridge is complete