

(c) Coal India Ltd. and Steel Authority of India Ltd. come under the charge of Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Steel & Mines.

(d) and (e). In terms of extant orders, absence upto 20 days and gaps on account of non-availability of productive work are not treated as breaks in service for the purpose of reckoning of continuous service of 180 days. This policy is adopted uniformly on all the Railways.

Selection and Appointment of Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy

2795. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether selection and appointment to the post of Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has since been made, if so, in what manner and who is the incumbent selected and appointed ;

(b) if not, how long will it take to do the needful ;

(c) whether this appointment has been or is being made on an ad hoc basis ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not making it on a regular basis ?

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

(a) No.

(b) to (d). The appointment to the post of Director in the Council will be made shortly on the recommendations of the Selection Committee and in accordance with the rules and regulations and bye-laws of the Council.

Setting up of special camp Hospital for Eye Operations

2796. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blind persons in the country ;

(b) the number of blind who can be cured through operation ;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up special camp hospitals for eye operations ; and

(d) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Based on the sample survey conducted by I. C. M. R. in 1973 it is estimated that there are 9 million people blind in the country ;

(b) Out of 9 million it is estimated that about 5 million suffer from curable blindness whose eyesight can be restored through surgical intervention.

(c) & (d). 80 Mobile Units are already approved to cover the entire country during the VI Plan Period. 43 of the Units are already in operation.

Fumigation Operations to Kill Mosquitoes

2797. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that fumigation operations to kill mosquitoes are carried out in various colonies in the capital ;