

(b) if so, the names of the places with States in which the schools have been sanctioned;

(c) whether any proposals/requests for opening new central Schools are pending with Government for considerations; and

(d) if so, the names of the places for which the proposals are under consideration and the likely date by which the decision on them would be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have been authorised to open 40 Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) in the country during the year 1982-83. Besides, some Kendriya Vidyalayas are also likely to be opened at places where institutions of higher learning/public undertakings are located.

The locations for Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened during the next year are to be decided by the Sangathan at the time of commencement of the next academic session. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the names of such places.

(c) and (d). Proposals for opening new Kendriya Vidyalayas are considered by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan when received from an appropriate sponsoring authority in the prescribed manner. Opening of schools is a continuous process. The schools are opened in a phased manner, at places where there is demand and where requisite physical facilities in the form of land and buildings etc. are available. As stated in reply to part (b) above, it is not possible to give precise time limits.

Report of the Expert Committee on Medical Education in the country

2051. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centre had appointed an Expert Committee to suggest proposals to give uniformity to medical education in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Medical Education Review Committee which was set up earlier under the Chairmanship of Shantilal Mehta had submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that terms and reference of the Committee also included the medical manpower planning in the health care of the country; and

(d) when the reports of these committees are likely to be received and examined by Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) The Government have appointed a Medical Education Review Committee to review the present medical education system and make recommendations in regard to its reform in the context of the national commitment to attain the goal of 'Health for All by the year 2000 AD'.

(b) The Review Committee for the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi (including Dr. R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences) and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, chaired by Dr. Shantilal J. Mehta, has already submitted its report to the Government.

(c) One of the term of reference of the Medical Education Review Committee is to evolve realistic projections of medical manpower requirements during the Sixth Five Year Plan and beyond.

(d) The Medical Education Review Committee which commenced functioning on 8-9-1981 is expected to submit its report on some of its terms of reference within 6 months i.e. by 8-3-1982. Action is in hand to examine the report of the Committee referred to in answer to part 'b' of the question.

Development of New safety system for Railways

2052. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a safety system for the Railways has been developed by the public sector Electronics Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether one of the devices is that the train drivers henceforth will not be able to jump the signals and any attempt on their part to do so will automatically bring the train to a halt under the above safety system;

(c) whether any addition to these safety devices controls speed limit for each train by monitoring the occupancy of the sections ahead and inform the driver about the permissible speed; and

(d) if so, to what extent these safety devices for trains have reduced the train accidents and improved the efficiency in Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Automatic Train Warning System developed by the Electronics Corporation of India is capable of warning the driver while approaching a station about the condition of the first stop signal from a predetermined point. If the signal, he is approaching, displays danger aspect, the driver has to acknowledge the warning within a specified time. If he fails to do so within the specified time, the system comes into operation to apply the brakes automatically.

(c) Electronics Corporation of India has also developed another safety system called Continuous Automatic Train Protection System which continuously monitors occupancy of sections ahead of a train and limits the speed accordingly. This device is intended for underground Railways and is under installation and field trial in Metro Railway, Calcutta.

(d) Automatic Warning System has been introduced partly on Howrah-Burdwan and Gaya-Mughalsarai Sections on Eastern Railway and on some of the Electric Multiple Units and locomotives plying on these sections. It is difficult to quantify the impact of this system on the train accidents until work is completed in the entire section and on all the locomotives/electric multiple units.

Subjects Discussed at Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of South Asian Countries

2053. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that meeting of the foreign secretaries of South Asian countries was held in November, 1981;

(b) if so, how many countries participated in the conference;

(c) what were the subjects discussed and decisions arrived at there; and

(d) what was the main purpose of this meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Foreign Secretaries of the following countries participated in the Conference:—

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

(c) and (d). The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the recommendations for regional cooperation of the five Study Groups established at the Foreign Secretaries' meeting in Colombo in areas of rural development, agriculture, meteorology, health