

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian team has recently visited Laos and Kampuchea, to explore the areas in which India could extend co-operation for both, long and short term assistance, and to work out the country's strategy in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its interim report, if any, along with its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A team of Indian experts visited Laos and Kampuchea in January, 1982 to carry out a study of areas in which India might assist these two countries in future.

(b) While the main Report of the team is still under preparation, a preliminary Report has already been submitted. The Report recommends both emergency assistance as well as long-term assistance. While appropriate decisions will be taken only after the main Report has been considered in detail by Government. It appears likely that long term Indian assistance to Laos and Kampuchea would largely be in the fields of Agriculture, Small Scale Industries, Public Health, Culture and Mineral explorations.

Availability and requirement of drug to control leprosy

2951. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national programme to control leprosy has been hampered because the main drug dapsona has not been available in requisite quantity;

(b) if so, whether the annual requirement of the drug is estimated as 80 tonnes inclusive of 5 tonnes of buffer stock to meet the emergency situation;

(c) if so, main reasons for the shortage;

(d) whether steps have been taken by Government to improve its production; and

(e) how many anti leprosy schemes have been set due to the shortage of this drug and by what time Government would increase its production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) No.

(b) No. It is about 45 M. tonnes per year now inclusive of buffer stock.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Steps have been taken by Government to increase the production capacity in the country.

(e) Does not arise.

Number of Consultative Committees Dissolved

2952. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of Consultative Committees of the Railways comprising the official and non-official representatives which were functioning;

(b) how many of them have been dissolved; and

(c) the main reasons for dissolution and whether any other new committees are likely to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). All the Railway Users' Consultative Committees functioning at Divisional and Zonal levels numbering 87, have been dissolved.

(c) These Committees had become unwieldy and lacked representative character. Fresh Committees are under constitution.

बिना गेट वाले रेलवे क्रासिंग

2953. श्री सज्जन कुमार : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :