

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to assess the functioning of the School and if so, the result thereof and the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) In the first week of August, 1982, students of the Government School for the Blind Boys, Kingsway Camp, Delhi did not attend the classes to press their demand for separation of the hostel for the college going blind students from the hostel for the school boys. A decision has been taken to shift the college boys to a new building which is expected to be ready by 15 October, 1982. The school is now functioning normally.

Appointment of task forces of Leprosy and Blindness Control Programmes

697. **SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently appointed three task forces of experts for the effective implementation of the national leprosy and blindness control programmes;

(b) if so, how the task forces will implement these programmes;

(c) whether the State Governments have been given any directions to implement these programmes effectively; and

(d) if so, by when the task forces would achieve their goals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHAN-KARANAND): (a) and (b) Action Groups of leading Experts are being set up to assist in effective field level implementation of the National Programmes of Leprosy, Tuberculosis and Control of Blindness. These Action Groups will interest with State and

U.T. Government organisations concerned with implementing these programmes.

(c) and (d) These National Programmes have been included in Government's new 20 Point Programmes and specific State and U.T. wise targets have been formulated for the year 1982-83. It is envisaged that the Action Groups will play a catalytic role in the attainment of these targets.

698. **SHRI DEEN BANDHU VARMA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of Railway land is in possession of Railways throughout the country and how many acres of it is being utilised and for what purposes;

(b) the total income therefrom;

(c) whether Railway Board has taken sufficient care of the land in its possession; and

(d) if not, how many acres of Railway land has been encroached or grabbed by others and what action has been taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Adoption of acupuncture system in Government Hospitals

699. **DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Report of the Dr. Kotnis Memorial Committee stating that "Acupuncture" method has been successful in curing, asthma, piles, spondylitis, frozen joints and other ailments;