

CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) Under the Scheme of Integrated Education for Disabled Children, the educable handicapped children are taught alongwith normal children and the courses in English and Sanskrit are the same for both. However, deaf and dumb students are exempted from the requirement of learning a third language at class VIII level.

(b) Deaf children rely more on ichonic memory but the blind children depend on echoic memory. The reproduction of material from memory is not always deficient in the handicapped as compared to their sighted counterparts ; in many cases they can perform better than the normals.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) and (e) Syllabi, etc., are same. But, in case of deaf and dumb category of students there is, a special concession that they may at the secondary level offer either Home Science or Painting in place of one of the two languages.

Regularisation of Casual Gangmen in Eastern Railway

8990. SHRI A.K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state :

(a) is it is a fact that Casual Gangmen who have been working for more than a decade in Eastern Railway, have not been regularised in service even though they acquired temporary status since last 5 to 10 years ;

(b) the details of the length of services of these Gangmen after they acquired the temporary status with P.W.I. wise break up in Eastern Railway ;

(c) reasons for not regularising them in service ; and

(d) policy of the Government regarding absorption of these Gangmen in regular service in Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Gangmen are regularised as and when vacancies for their absorption become available.

Health Officers Visiting Hong Kong, China to know about Acupuncture System

8991. SHRI RAM PRASAD AHIRWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of Health Officers is visiting Hong Kong/China to get themselves informed about the science of acupuncture as being not only effective for various diseases but also cheap for poor people ; and

(b) names of officers of this team, their terms of reference and the possible date of their planned visit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOH-SINA KIDWAI) : (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Steps taken to Alleviate the Trouble of Commuters of Sealdah South Section

8992. DR. NIRMAL SINHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with the rapid rate of increase of commuter-belts in Sealdah South Section, railway passengers are inconvenienced daily due to lack of accommodation in train compartments ;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to alleviate this trouble ; and

(c) the amount granted in 1983-84 budget for the alleviation of the trouble of the commuters of this section ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) Yes, the occupation of passengers in trains on this section particularly during the peak period is heavy.

(b) To ease such congestion, arrangements are being made to convert 8 bogie

rakes to 9 bogie rakes gradually on receipt of more coaches. However, introduction of additional train is not immediately possible due to paucity of Electric Multiple Unit stock and capacity constraints on the sections and terminals.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the Budget for 1983-84 for augmenting the line capacity requirements on this section.

Amount Allocated for National Highways in Kerala

8993. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount allocated for National Highways in Kerala during the Sixth Plan period and the details of the work proposed to be undertaken;

(b) whether Government of Kerala has demanded more amount in this respect; and

(c) if so, the details of the demand and the action taken by the Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) The programme drawn up for development of National Highways for the country as a whole in the Sixth Plan includes works of a total cost of Rs. 19.25 crores pertaining to Kerala as detailed in the statement laid on the table of the house (Placed in Library, See No. LT 6527-183)

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In March 1981, the Kerala Government had asked for a total provision of Rs. 52.5 crores for the Sixth Plan but this could not be accepted due to overall financial constraints.

Demonstration by Experts of Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, U.K. RE. Treatment of Arthritis of Knee and Hip.

8994. SHRI ANATHA RAMULU MALU:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a team of experts of Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, U.K. has demonstrated the latest advances in the treatment of arthritis of the knee and hip-total knee replacement-at the Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reports of our surgeons and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (c) It is a fact that a team of Orthopaedic Surgeons sponsored by the Commonwealth Foundation visited Sir Ganga Ram Hospital from 13th March, 1983 to 16th March, 1983. Consultations were provided in 82 cases and 3 operations were performed. Similar orthopaedic surgical procedures are presently commonly adopted practices at Indian institutions like the Central Institute of Orthopaedics at the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

Vigilance Officer Working in Railways

8995. SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Vigilance Officers working in Indian Railway, Zonal-Railway-wise and Grade-wise.

(b) What is the deputation period of Vigilance Officers and whether it is a fact that several Vigilance Officers are still continuing after expiry of deputation period; and

(c) if so, why they are continuing and have not been returned to their original/parent posts.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) The normal period of tenure of Vigilance Officers of the Railways is 3 years, extendable in public interest. Extension beyond 3 years requires Railway Board's approval. Out of a total of 55 Vigilance Officers, only 6 officers have been continued beyond 3 years in public interest.