

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) No survey has been conducted by the Government to determine the number of children who go blind every year. However, a sample survey conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in 1973-75 estimated that among children vitamin A deficiency alone affects more than 30,000 every year leading to keratomalacia and blindness.

(b) State wise figures are not available as no such survey has been conducted.

(c) A scheme to prevent blindness due to vitamin A deficiency among children is in operation since Fourth Five Year Plan through oral administration of massive dose of vitamin A solution. During the Sixth Five Year Plan 125 millions preschool children will be protected. The scheme is implemented mostly in rural areas of all States/UTs. Besides, educational efforts to popularise breast feeding, appropriate weaning foods, use of green leafy vegetables and other food stuffs rich in vitamin A, are being intensified through all media of Mass Communication and interpersonal communication channels.

(d) The budget provision for the purpose during the last three years were:—

(Figures in lakhs)

1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Rs. 97.50	Rs. 69.00	Rs. 71.25

Commencement of Five Year Law Degree Course

5195. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the proposal for five year law degree course; and

(b) if so, when the Central Universities are expected to start this course?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Under

the provisions of the Advocates Act, 1961, the powers to prescribe the standards of legal education for the purpose of enrolment as advocates, vest with the Bar Council of India. The Bar Council has formulated a new pattern of legal education of five years after the 10 plus 2 stage which has been brought into effect from 1-6-1982.

(b) All the Universities in the country, including Central Universities, have been advised by the Bar Council to switch over to the new scheme in two years, that is, by the academic year 1984-85.

Private Engineering Colleges and Technical Institutions in States

5196. SHRI DEEN BANDHU VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a serious note of the mushroom growth of private engineering colleges and technical institutions in some States in gross violation of the guidelines on this issue;

(b) if so, in which of the States such growth of private technical institutions have been detected;

(c) whether any directives have been issued to the State Governments in this behalf; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of those States in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have been requested to and the practice of charging capitation fee.

(d) All the State Governments have reacted favourably but the State Governments where such institutions reportedly

exist have not yet been able to stop this practice due to certain legal and other difficulties. The Andhra Pradesh Government have recently promulgated an Ordinance specifically for banning collection of capitation fee. The Ordinance is being replaced by a Bill which has been passed by the State Assembly on the 21st March, 1983.

Frequent break-down in running of suburban and Non-Suburban Trains in Sealdah Division

5197. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone into the reasons of frequent break-down in running of suburban and non-suburban trains of the Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken so far; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) Recently 48 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches including 12 motor coaches have been provided to Eastern Railway not only to replace some overaged coaches but also to improve the reliability in service and increase frequency. The main reason of frequent break-down has been incidents of thefts, damage and pilferage of vital equipment by miscreants, effective liaison is also being maintained with the concerned security agencies and the State Government.

(c) It is too early to make an assessment in this regard.

Construction of platform shed and connecting road at Chengail station.

5198. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some small work of construction of three platform sheds at Chengail station of S. E. railway and some

repair or reconstruction of the connecting roads from the station have not yet completed for several years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons; and

(c) whether the Government will allocate adequate funds for the work and complete the work immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes. The work of extension of 3 bays of platform shelters on platform Nos. 1 & 2/3 were approved in 1979-80 Budget, and not yet completed. The approach road which is of water bound macadam needs some patch repairs.

(b) and (c) The reasons for non-completion was general paucity of funds and some delay in fabrication of the sheds. Casting of foundation have since been completed, and Railway expects to complete the erection work in the next few months.

The patch repairs on the water bound macadam approach road in Railway are also expected to be completed before onset of the monsoon.

Bridge over river Brahmani between Tumkela ghat and Bonaigarh in Orissa

5199. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the construction of a bridge over the river Brahmani between Tumkelaghat and Bonaigarh on National Highway No. 23 (Orissa) is under consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, when the above bridge is proposed to be constructed;

(c) the estimated cost of that bridge; and

(d) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for 1983-84 for the construction of the above bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to