

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 800,000 blind people in India had their sight restored during 1982 through cataract operations ;

(b) if so, whether this was done under the U.N. Development Programme ;

(c) whether this Programme continued in 1983 also ;

(d) to what extent the blind people in India have been benefited : and

(e) what is the total number of people in India who still suffer due to blindness ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (e) Sample Surveys carried out in different parts of the country by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1973-75, gave an estimate of about 9 million blind persons in the country. About 55% of the blindness is due to cataract which usually occurs in old age and is curable by surgical interference.

During 1982-83, more than eight lakh cataract operations were reported to have been performed. The Annual target fixed for 1983-84 is to perform 12,73 lakh cataract operations in the States/Union Territories.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is not supporting this programme.

#### Setting up of Institute of Technology at Dhubri, Assam

2069. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to establish an Institute of Technology under the Science and Technology Department for imparting training to the educated youths of North Eastern Region in Paper Technology, Jute Technology, Oil Technology, Textile Technology etc. at Dhubri or Gauhati, Assam ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal from the State Government of Assam has been received for consideration by the All India Council for Technical Education.

#### Write off of amount earned by Gauhati Catering Unit

2070. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 161.97 being daily earnings of Gauhati Catering Unit, N.F. Railway was not desposited by on duty concerned staff on 24 June, 1966 ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a vigilance case was instituted against two concerned staff for the same ;

(c) whether subsequently the said amount was written off vide memorandum No. C/SS/SPE/2/67 (Loose) dated 1 April, 1978 ;

(d) if so, what were the reasons to write off the said amount when no theft occurred there ; and

(e) how these amounts were omitted to be deposited and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI) : (a) to (c) Yes.

(d) The amount was written off as no definite responsibility could be fixed. Assistant Manager in charge of the Unit has been punished. Instructions have been reiterated regarding handing over and taking over of cash and for prompt remittance.

(e) It was a case of short remittance.

#### Reports on University Agitations and Activities on Students and Teachers

2071. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :