

Plastic Cornea Grafting

1451. SHRI D. K. PANDA :
SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUN-
WALA :

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

(a) whether Government have verified the rival claims made by two teams of Eye-Surgeon at Patiala and Delhi regarding the pioneering work in Plastic cornea grafting ; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS & HOUSING, AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) :
(a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research has supported studies on clinical trials of keratoprosthesis at two centres namely, Government Medical College, Patiala and Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. At Patiala, the work was started in June, 1969. According to the latest report received, keratoprosthesis made of methyl methacrylate was implanted in the eyes of 4 patients successfully, the first operation having been performed in December, 1969. Follow up has shown no indication of any foreign body reaction towards the implanted keratoprosthesis, causing extrusion of the implant or demanding removal of the keratoprosthesis. Vision has improved except in one case where there was retinal malfunction.

At the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi, similar work was undertaken in April, 1970. In the latest report received, it is stated that a methyl methacrylate polymer has been prepared by the special technique of ultraviolet polymerisation. The apparatus and the technical details of polymerisation have been indigenously developed. Various designs of plastic cornea have been experimented upon animals and final selection has been made for clinical trials. The first grafting of this indigenously made plastic cornea was done on the 28th April, 1971 and the patient can now recognise faces.

Commissioning of First Indian Built Naval Frigate, Nilgiri

1452. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been delay in commis-

sioning of first Indian-built Naval Frigate, Nilgiri ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes sir ; by about 5 months.

(b) The delay is the result of cumulative effect of the difficulties experienced in this first ever production of a highly sophisticated Frigate in the country.

Rejection of offer of Government accommodation by Employees

1453. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government servants who were offered Government accommodation on Doctors' recommendations, but did not accept the same up to the 31st March, 1971 ;

(b) the reasons for not accepting the Government accommodation ; and

(c) how much loss Government has suffered due to Government quarters remaining vacant owing to rejection of offers by the employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Out of 649 Govt. employees, who were offered general pool accommodation on medical grounds in Delhi, New Delhi, during the period from December, 1967 to March, 1971, only 17 employees did not accept the allotments.

(b) In 15 cases no reasons for non-acceptance of the allotments were given by the employees concerned but in 2 cases the employees concerned did not accept the allotments as they wanted accommodation in a particular area.

(c) According to the provisions contained in the Allotment Rules, when an acceptance is not received from the officer concerned to whom the allotment is made, within the stipulated period, the accommodation is allotted to the next officer on the waiting list. The question of loss of revenue does not arise.