

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government so far to connect these towns with Hoshiarpur District Headquarters?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) Yes.

(b) These towns are already connected through a trunk circuit to Hoshiarpur.

Hospitals without Doctors in Himachal Pradesh

1248. Shri Virbhadra Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of hospitals and dispensaries in Himachal Pradesh are without doctors;

(b) if so, the number of such hospitals and dispensaries; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this matter?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Himachal Hospital, Snowdon, Simla

1249. Shri Virbhadra Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patients are not getting admission in the Himachal Hospital, Snowdon, Simla, due to shortage of beds; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this matter?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Himachal Pradesh Administration who administer the Himachal Hospital, Snowdon, Simla and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Rural Water Supply in Punjab

1250. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount for Rural Drinking Water Supply Schemes sanctioned to the Punjab Government during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are certain areas in the Punjab where there is chronic shortage of drinking water like the hilly areas and arid ones like Mohindergarh and Gurgaon;

(c) whether the Punjab Government has asked for more money; and

(d) if so, how much and what is the reaction of Government towards it?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) A provision of Rs. 75 lakhs has been made by the Government of Punjab for rural water supply and sanitation schemes during the Third Five Year Plan under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). A proposal for the diversion of Rs. 50 lakhs from urban to rural schemes is understood to be under consideration of the State Government. The matter will be considered by the Government of India on receipt of proposals from the State Government.

Provision for halt of Train at Bankhedi (Central Railway)

1251. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been made to Government urging that the bi-weekly Bombay-Howrah Janata Express should halt at Bankhedi between Piparia and Gadawara (Central Railway);

(b) whether the representations have been considered; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.