

The facilities of surgical intervention and chemotherapy are available in almost all major hospitals in the country. The Government have no plans to establish hospitals exclusively for treatment of cancer patients, during the 8th/9th Five Year Plan. But funds are provided to various institutions for expanding the existing facilities.

(e) and (f). Financial assistance is provided to private institutions for cobalt therapy units as well promotion of health education and detection of cancer.

Increase in Teenage Pregnancies and Motherhood

2148. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether percentage of teenage pregnancies and teenage motherhood has been on the increase;

(b) if so, the State-wise teenage pregnancies and motherhood during each of the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 in absolute terms and as percentage of the whole;

(c) whether raising the marriageable age of girls is considered as one of the most effective measures for containing population growth; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1978 raises the legal age at marriage from 15 to 18 years for girls and from 18 to 21 years for boys. The census data reveals that the mean age at marriage for girls has already moved beyond 18 to 18.33 (Census 81). To further create consensus to delay "gouna" and age at marriage, awareness programmes are being implemented through electronic media, street plays, song and drama and opinion creating camps at village level.

[Translation]

Snow and Avalanche Study Office in H.P.

2449. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Snow and Avalanche Study establishment office is functioning efficiently in Manali, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh for the last several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to transfer its sub-offices from Manali to Chandigarh in a phased manner;

(c) if so, whether the snow required for research by this office is available in Manali in adequate quantity in natural form and the climate of Himachal Pradesh is also best suited for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for shifting of the sub-offices of this establishment from Manali to Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment office (SASE) at Manali location was functioning efficiently till 4 Sep 95 when the heavy floods caused severe damage to its building and infrastructure.

(b) and (c). The 'Observatories' of SASE which are used for data collection relating to snow & avalanche and the cold laboratory have not been shifted and will continue to function from their existing locations. The Manali office which provided administrative and technical support for analysis of the observatory data and prediction of avalanche has been temporarily shifted to Ramgarh, Panchkula in the campus of sister laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation, till safe and viable alternative site is finalised.

(d) In the interest of continuity of activities of SASE, its Manali office had to be shifted temporarily to the campus of a sister laboratory at Ramgarh, Panchkula because it was not possible to function from Manali due to extensive damage to buildings and other infrastructure of SASE caused by heavy floods. Manali location of SASE had become flood prone due to change of course of river Beas. Alternative site is sought from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Ezhimala Naval Academy

2450. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to speed up the work of Ezhimala Naval Academy in Kerala and to complete its work during the year 1997-98 in the interest of the country and security point; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). As per Government approval accorded in March, 1995, the Naval Academy Project is planned to be executed over a period of 8 years (1995-2002). The Academy is scheduled to be commissioned in 2001 with the induction of the first batch of cadets.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited

2451. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from Andhra Pradesh for capital restructuring and revival of Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance sought for the purpose and proposed to be released; and

(c) the policy of direct support for survival of Indian ship building yards?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Action has already been initiated by the Government to process the proposals relating to capital restructuring of Hindustan Shipyard Limited and re-introduction of subsidy scheme.

Membership of APEC

2452. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far, to gain the Membership of APEC.

(b) whether India had sought admission in APEC as a Member;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) whether India's request had been opposed by some powerful countries.

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of such countries; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the APEC's standard of economic liberalisation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India had formally conveyed to members of APEC its interest in associating with APEC and participating in its activities. This has been taken up on a sustained basis with APEC member economies both directly as well as through our diplomatic Missions in these countries. The subject of India's membership has also been raised with individual APEC member economies during high level bilateral interactions, for example, the subject was taken up at the Foreign Ministers level during the ASEAN-Post Ministerial Conference in Jakarta in July 1996. It has also been discussed bilaterally during other ministerial meetings.

(d) and (e). We are not aware of any such opposition. In fact, APEC had decided in November 1993 to impose a moratorium for three years on admission of new members into APEC. The recent APEC Summit Meeting in Philippines during November 1996 did not admit any new member, but decided to evolve a criteria for admission of new members to be finalised at the next APEC Summit scheduled at Vancouver in 1997.

(f) India will continue to reiterate its interest in membership of APEC on the basis of its geographical

location, degree of trade and investment interaction and potential, size of India's economy, and ability to contribute to larger Asia-Pacific economic cooperation and liberalisation.

[Translation]

Scheme to Revive Dead Rivers

2453. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item which appeared in the 'Financial Express' dated September 10, 1996 under the heading "Japan offers tech. to revive dead rivers";

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified such rivers in the the country which have become unuseful because of pollution;

(c) if so, the details of such rivers;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to increase the quantum of waters in these rivers, accelerate their pace of flow and dig up the deposited soil/silt from them;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the effect of pollution will be lessened by digging the silt from them; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Government have not received any offer from the Government of Japan in this regard.

(b) to (f). Do not arise.

[English]

Mangalore Port

2454. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the development of the hinterland of the new Mangalore Port;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard;

(c) the fund earmarked therefor; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The development of hinterland does not vest with New Mangalore Port Trust.