

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). UGC has taken a decision, in principle, to set up regional offices in different parts of the country. No decision on the location of these offices has been taken.

Expansion of AIIMS

2986. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the estimated cost; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. There are proposals for expansion of AIIMS by setting up a Screening OPD additional Private Ward, Surgical Block, Mortuary, an Animal House etc; at an estimated cost of Rs. 44 crores approximately during the 8th Plan period. The said expansion is proposed to be taken up in a phased manner and is likely to be completed before the end of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Increase in Rail Fares

2987. SHRI D.D. KHANORIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail fare charges of narrow gauge rail line between Pathankot-Joginder Nagar on Northern Railway have been increased as compared to other narrow

gauge lines; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Passenger fares on the Pathankot-Joginder Nagar section are charged on inflated distance which is 1/1.2 times of the actual distance.

The decision of inflate the distance was taken as it was found that the line would not be remunerative if fares and freight were charged on actual distance. Even with inflation in the distance for charge, Railways are incurring losses on this section. Such a method of inflating the actual distance is in vogue on some other unremunerative lines also irrespective of gauge.

Number of Practitioners in different systems of Medicine

2988. SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of specialists who are presently working in different Allopathic, Homoeopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine in CGHS dispensaries, dispensary wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of specialists particularly in Homoeopathic system of medicine;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to appoint more senior homeopathic physicians in Delhi, New Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) A Statement is attached.