

Diseases in Tribal Areas

1081. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:

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

(a) the diseases prevailing in tribal dominated areas and economically backward areas of the country;

(b) the reasons for high rate of incidence of such diseases;

(c) the action taken by the Government to eradicate such diseases; and

(d) the achievements in that regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The major diseases are malaria, goitre, gastro-enteritis and diarrhoeal diseases.

(b) The forest environment; poor economic status, taboos, beliefs and attitudes; paucity of safe drinking water, unsatisfactory hygienic and sanitation conditions, etc. etc. are the main reasons for the high rate of the said diseases.

(c) and (d). The State Governments have a net-work of sub-centres, primary health centres and community health hospitals in the tribal areas in accordance with the prescribed norms. In addition, the Centre assists through the National Programmes for control of diseases like malaria. Many States have banned the sale of non-iodized salt. Over a period of time, it has been possible to manage the diseases more promptly and effectively.

[Translation]**Aircraft given by U.N.D.P.**1082. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme had given a four-seater aircraft to the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the purposes for which it has been used during the last one year and the names of places where it was used and the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the aircraft in the forest fire control project during July, 1991 to Feb, 1992;

(d) whether the aircraft has been used for any other purpose during that period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to check the misuse of the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The U.N.D.P. had given a low-flying 4 seater Aircraft to the Ministry.

(b) The Aircraft was used to visit Dehra Dun, Chandigarh/Bhuner, Varanasi/Lucknow, Bhopal/Chhindwara for official purposes and for technical landing/refuelling and also for Con-Training (endurance check).

(c) The expenditure incurred for the maintenance and running of the Aircraft during the period July '91 to February '92 is Rs. 2,60,321 (Rs. Two lakhs sixty thousand three hundred and twenty one only).

(d) and (e). The Aircraft went to Jaipur/

Ahmedabad/Bombay for snag rectification of radio equipment yearly servicing/certification; it also went to Jabalpur against payment and also for Con-Training.

(f) The Aircraft has not been misused.

Refunds for Cancelled Tickets

1083. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by the commuters in getting the refunds after cancellation of tickets (Reservation) purchased from the Computer Reservation Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in getting refunds;

(c) whether the Government propose to modify the system in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total number of persons who returned reservation tickets and got the refund during the last six months and the number of persons still waiting for refund; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Govt. to refund the amount within a week?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No such problems have come to notice. Under the existing Rules, refund on cancelled tickets is granted at the computerised Reservation counter itself till the printing of charts of the relevant train, and upto 6 hours after the departure of the train at the station. In cases where refund is not admissible at the station, the ticket is deposited at the station and ticket deposit receipt issued to the passenger. Refund is granted by the CCS (Refund) of the ticket issuing Railway based on the merits of each case.

(c) and (d). The existing procedure is working satisfactorily and there is no proposal to modify these rules.

(e) The total number of cases received for refund on all zonal railways from July '91 to Dec. '91 were 1,46,075. Out of them, refund has already been granted in 1,32,022 cases and 14,053 cases were pending as on 31.12.1991.

(f) Refund is granted on the spot in respect of the tickets cancelled at the Reservation Counter before printing of the charts and upto 6 hours after the departure of the train at the station. In other cases, refund is normally granted within 16 days provided timely request accompanied with relevant documents is received.

[Translation]

Primary Education for Children

1084. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNICEF in its Report for the 1992 has pointed to the fact that even the primary education is not being imparted to a major section of children's in our country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) In its Report titled 'The State of the World' Children 1992' the UNICEF document mentions that in India approximately half of the nation's children fail to finish primary school.

(b) Government is aware that the retention in primary schools is unsatisfactory. According to latest available statistics relating to 1987-88, retention rate at the primary stage is 53.03%.

The National Policy on Education, 1986.