

[English]

National Passenger Road Finance Transport Corporation

4840. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a National Passenger Road Finance Transport Corporation is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to amend the Road Transport Corporation Act; and

(d) if so, the purpose of the Amendment?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government is considering to establish National Road Transport Development Finance Corporation which will provide loan assistance to State Road Transport Undertakings. At this stage no firm indications are available as to the actual status of the National Road Transport Development Finance Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main purpose of the proposed amendment is to bring about more functional autonomy to SRTUs and to enable these Corporations to act on business principle in such manner as to ensure the minimum rate of return of 3% on the Capital invested.

Labourers in Ordnance Factories

4841. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of idle labourers now being maintained by each of the Ordnance Factories;

(b) whether Ordnance Factories by and large are placing their orders, either for complete items of production, or in part from trade and private organisations, instead of getting them manufactured at their own factories or inter-factories;

(c) whether consequently, the idle labourers have been on the rise; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) There is no idle labour in Ordnance Factories.

(b) Complete items of production are not purchased from trade and private organisations. A few components and sub-assemblies for which capacities are either not created or not available in the ordnance factories are ordered on the trade.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Bhagirath Magazine

4842. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Parliamentary sub-committee had made some recommendations about "Bhagirath" magazine some time back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations implemented and those which have not been implemented so far;

(d) the reasons for not implementing of all the recommendations; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement all the recommendations without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) Parliamentary sub-committee had not made any recommendation about Bhagirath magazine. However, one assurance was given to Parliamentary sub-committee on Official Languages in February, 1992 that the same number of copies of Bhagirath (Hindi) and Bhagirath (English) would be printed.

2300 copies of Bhagirath (English) and 2100 copies of Bhagirath (Hindi) are being printed at present. The number of paid subscribers of Bhagirath (English) is 350 and that of Bhagirath (Hindi) is 44 at present.

(e) Henceforth, the same number of copies of Bhagirath (English) and Bhagirath (Hindi) would be printed irrespective of the number of paid subscribers.

Shortage of Anti-Rabies Medicines

4843. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of anti-rabies medicines in the Primary Health Centres in rural areas;

(b) whether the medicines available in the Primary Health Centres are of expired dates;

(c) whether the poor people die, because this medicine is neither available in the Primary Health Centres, nor these people can afford to purchase it from the market as it is too costly;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps for adequate supply of these medicines in the Primary Health Centres; and

(e) the total number of Primary Health Centres in the country and the number of centres, where the aforesaid facility is available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) The medicines at the Primary Health Centres are supplied by the State Governments and availability of medicines at Primary Health Centres varies from the State to State.

(c) No such survey has been carried out by the Government at the National level.

(d) States have been advised from time to time to ensure adequate supply of medicines at the Primary Health centres.

(e) There are 21802 Primary Health Centres in the country. All Primary Health Centres are required to stock and supply medicines to the beneficiary.

[English]

Bansagar Project in M.P.

4844. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not completing the multi-purpose Bansagar Project of Madhya Pradesh, which was scheduled to be completed by the year 1985;

(b) the reasons for closing the Satna office of Lower Poorva canal of Bansagar Project;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-open the Satna divisional office of Bansagar Project; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The main reasons for delay in completion of Bansagar Project are non-contribution of adequate funds by the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and delay in finalisation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy.

(b) to (d) The Satna Office of Bansagar Project is under administrative control of Government of Madhya Pradesh and decision regarding closing and re-opening of that office depends upon the State Government as per their convenience.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities

4845. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
KUMARI UMA BHARATI:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI N. DENNIS:
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Public Health Alternative strategies are Needed', as reported in 'The Times of India' dated July 24, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Expert Committee set up by the Government have recommended that besides Government machinery, other bodies will also be utilised to make available medical facilities to common man of the country;

(c) if so, the details of the other policy decisions taken by the Government;

(d) the plan of the Government to implement the decisions; and

(e) the average amount spent on the health services during the Eighth Five Year Plan and whether the Government propose to achieve the target of 5 percent expenditure on the health services during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. J.S. Bajaj was constituted to comprehensively review the Public Health System in the Country.

The Committee has submitted its report on 6th June, 1996.

The Committee has made several recommendations. Some of the important recommendations made are:

- (i) Involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the development of public health system and the practices through an appropriately developed action plan with suitable funding.
- (ii) Review of National Health Policy.
- (iii) Establishment of health impact assessment cell.
- (iv) Surveillance of critically polluted areas.
- (v) Establishing an Apex Technical Advisory Committee.
- (vi) Opening of Regional Schools of Public Health.
- (vii) Establishing a Centre for Disease Control.

The Report is under examination by the Government.

(e) During Eighth Five Year Plan the allocation for Health Sector (including States/UTs) is Rs. 7582.19 crores and for Family Welfare Sector it is Rs. 6500.00 crores. For finalisation of the Ninth Five Year Plan several working groups have been set up by Planning Commission.