

satellite channels, including the foreign satellite channels, reach the viewers in India mostly through cable operators. These cable operators are Governed by Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which prescribes codes for programme and advertising. These codes do not cover programmes of foreign satellite channels which can be received without the use of any specialised gadgets or decoder. Action has now been initiated for amending certain provisions of this Act with a view, *inter-alia*, to bring these programmes of "free-to-air" foreign satellite channels also within the ambit of the prescribed programme/advertising code of the cable law when transmitted through a cable operator.

[English]

#### Bio-Chemical Lab for ESI

\*132. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether four ESI Occupational Diseases Centres at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai are running only on papers;

(b) whether the necessary bio-chemical labs required for such Centres are conspicuous by their absence;

(c) whether there is no trained staff available for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such state of affairs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The need to set up Occupational Diseases Centres on zonal basis with a view to diagnosing the cases of such diseases at an early stage was perceived in 1987 and a Committee was set up to give its recommendation with regard to provision of various facilities and equipments required for such centres.

The Committee recommended setting up of four Occupational Diseases Centres on zonal basis *i.e.* North, South, East and West and to develop a reference system from the neighbouring States. Accordingly, four Centres were set up at Delhi, Chennai, MGM Hospital, Mumbai and Calcutta.

The Zonal ODCs, in addition to providing services in the general specialities are also providing services for chest diseases, dermatology, ENT and eye. The necessary modern equipments required to diagnose such cases have been provided in all the four Occupational Diseases Centres. Also, diagnostic facilities in the form of Pathology Lab, Bio-Chemistry Lab, Pul Function Test Lab, Ultrasonography Lab, X-ray etc. have also been provided. To man the services, the required specialists, medical officers and paramedical staff has also been provided.

#### Cancellation of Wagon Orders

\*133. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the lowering down of railway freight traffic by 12% in the first nine months of the current financial year, Indian Railways have decided to cancel sizeable portion of the wagon orders;

(b) if so, the details of original orders placed for wagons, unit-wise;

(c) the extent to which these have been cancelled; and

(d) the extent to which the Railways have incurred the losses due to the cancellation of orders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) In the first nine months of the current financial year, loading of Railway freight was lower by about 7% from the target and about 2.5% from the corresponding period of the last year. In view of receipt of lower rates against fresh tender opened on 30.12.1998 and due to decline in traffic loading affecting requirements of wagons, minus option clause available in the 1998-99 contracts was exercised after allowing generally for six-weeks work-in-progress keeping in mind outstanding Railway Board orders placed earlier. The quantities were reduced by 30% where outstanding quantities, after considering six weeks work-in-progress, were more than 30% or upto the outstanding quantities, so worked out duly considering work-in-progress, where these were less than 30%.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Keeping in view the lower rates received, the question of loss due to cancellation of wagon orders does not arise.