

Of course, there are other States which are lagging behind. Power consumption is maintained in categories of agriculture domestic, commercial, industrial, etc. Records are not maintained rural or urban-wise, with reference to these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the reply given by the hon. Minister, I would like to know percentage of the villages electrified so far. In the rural areas of Bihar, electricity is not available. In view of that I want to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Government of India in this regard and whether any direction or aid has been given to the Government with a view to making available to the people of that State ?

MR. SPEAKER : If there is no electricity, then the question of supplying it does not arise.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Heart and Hypertension Diseases

***669 SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons affected by heart disease and hypertension is increasing ; and

(b) how do Government propose to prevent and help in the cure of these diseases by making available cheap medicines for the common man ?

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) No such data is available.

(b) A variety of effective and low cost drugs are available to treat various types of heart diseases and hypertension. However, in most of such cases no total cure through medicines is possible. The broad approach

of the Government is to strengthen the preventive and health educational measures so as to minimise the possibilities of incidence of such diseases and to provide the required medical assistance at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Translation]

Introduction of a super fast Train between Bilaspur and Trivandrum

***671 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the need of the people, Government propose to introduce a super fast train between Bilaspur and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Work on Vaccines/Sera for Various Diseases

***672. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Medical R & D Scientists have been working on preventive vaccines/sera for decades for various diseases including malaria and meningitis and if so, full details of achievements so far ;

(b) whether meningitis vaccine imported now cannot be more effectively manufactured in the various old-established Institutes in the country, some of which have been in existence for nearly a century and employing foreign qualified researchers in large numbers ; and

(c) whether Government would revamp and reorganise our Research Institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) The

country today is self sufficient in the production of a number of vaccines, including vaccines required for the expanded programme of immunization. While some progress has been achieved in the field of an anti-malaria vaccine, it has not yet reached a level of production and introduction in the national programme.

Taking up a programme for the research and development of the technology of production of pure polysaccharide antigens including meningococcal vaccine as a pilot project is under consideration.

(c) It is a continuous process.

Early Discharge of Patients in A.I.I.M.S.

*678. SHRI ANADICHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences patients operated upon even for serious illness like stone in kidney are discharged from the hospital within a short period of four days ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such early discharge of patients when they are too weak even to stand ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : (a) and (b) It has been reported by the Institute that all patients undergoing surgery are kept in the Hospital as long as it is considered necessary for post operative care.

Expansion and upgradation of Mysore Railway Workshop

*679. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to expand and upgrade the existing Mysore Railway Workshop ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the machinery and other equipment in the workshop in large quantity have become unserviceable ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) when final decision is likely to be taken to renovate, upgrade and expand the Mysore Railway Workshop ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The condition of the items of Machinery and Plant is satisfactory. There are some items of Machinery and Plant whose condition is not upto the mark but these items are also use-able.

(d) Replacement of Machinery and Plant in Railway Workshop is done on age-cum-condition basis through annual Machinery and Plant Programme. Allocation of funds is made based on the overall ways and means position. Accordingly during the last five years, Machinery and Plant worth about Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for Mysore Workshop for replacement.

Shifting of Electrification Office from Nagpur to Allahabad

*680. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to shift existing Railway electrification office from Nagpur to Allahabad ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to shift the existing office of Chief project Manager, Railway Electrification from Nagpur to Allahabad.

(b) Does not arise.

Retrenchment of Contract Labour at Loco Sheds

*681. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to dieselisation and electrification more and more contract labour at loco-sheds face retrenchment ;