

is an autonomous body not primarily responsible to the Government.

National Seminar on AIDS

*114. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Seminar on AIDS was held at New Delhi on 7 and 8 June, 1986 ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ;

(c) the steps taken to overcome the earlier lacunae in its detection ; and

(d) whether any research is being conducted to fight and cure AIDS in India and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (d) A National Seminar on AIDS was held by the Indian Medical Association in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research, on 7th and 8th June, 1986. The Seminar was attended by the representatives of Indian Medical Association from different States in India. Eminent scientists discussed different aspects of AIDS infection. The outline of National AIDS Control strategy was also presented to the participants of the Seminar.

Earlier, only two Surveillance centres were functioning in the country. Surveillance machinery has been expanded and augmented with the establishment of 12 diagnostic centres for detection of AIDS. In addition, 4 referral centres have also been established where higher level diagnostic facilities for AIDS are available.

Epidemiological studies are underway in the surveillance centres to investigate prevalence of AIDS infection in different segments of the population so that appropriate intervention measures including health education programmes could be implemented on a priority basis amongst the vulnerable segments of the population.

Import of diesel locomotives

115 SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries from where diesel locomotives are to be imported and number of locomotives that are likely to be imported ;

(b) whether these countries have agreed for transfer of technology ; and

(c) the extent to which it will meet the growing railway traffic of the country and the time by which the proposal is likely to take shape ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) It is proposed to float a global tender for the import of 25 fully assembled diesel-electric locomotives and a few locomotives in knocked down condition on technology transfer terms. Other details will depend on the tenders received.

(c) The new technology is expected to yield several advantages by way of higher availability of the locomotives for traffic use and higher fuel efficiency and thus better equip the Indian Railways to meet future challenges of rail transportation. The time-frame will depend on the tenders received.

National Water Policy and water shortage in Southern States

*116. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Union Government have assured the Southern States that the proposed National Water Policy would take into account their growing needs of potable water and for irrigation and other purposes ;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has brought to the notice of the Centre the problem of acute water shortage especially in the Southern districts of the State ;