

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expansion Project of Cochin Port

*358. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expansion project of the Cochin Port has been approved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and when Government expect to complete the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An integrated scheme for the development of Cochin Port for handling of (i) POL, and (ii) fertilizers at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.16 crores was sanctioned on 3 July, 1980.

It is proposed to provide a new oil berth in Ernakulam Channel. This oil berth will be designed to receive vessels with 10.7 metres (35 ft.) draught, which could be improved in future, with further deepening of the Channel, to 12.2 metres (40 ft.) draught. This will enable transportation of crude in bigger tankers, suitably lightered upto the draught of 10.70 metres (35 ft.).

The proposed fertilizer berth Q-10 will be capable of handling vessels of 35 ft. draught and will be equipped with mechanical unloading facilities to be provided by the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited at a cost of Rs. 4.07 crores.

The project is expected to be completed in three years.

Pregnancy Tests on Junior lady Doctors

*361. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE

SHARMA:

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that in Delhi, the Lady Hardinge Medical College

other associated hospitals are conducting pregnancy tests on their junior doctors every six months and are asking the pregnant doctors to quit or go in for an abortion if they want to retain their jobs;

(b) if so, the full facts thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation against this practice; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

In 1977 a proposal was received from the Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical Collage Hospital, New Delhi, observing that female Junior Residents who are pregnant cannot do justice to their rigorous clinical training and consequently the patient care and the hospital work also suffer, besides the candidate not being able to acquire the requisite training. It was observed that it would be unfair to subject the pregnant mother to the strenuous training prescribed under the Residency Scheme. In view of these considerations put forward by the Principal, the Government agreed that, if a female candidate for junior residency is found to be pregnant before appointment she may not be offered an appointment and, if pregnancy occurs after the appointment, then the next term of residency, if any, may not be sanctioned.

The Government has received a representation in this regard.

The first year Junior Residents are not Government employees but are contractual trainees who undergo training which is a pre-requisite to their becoming eligible for admission to post-graduate courses of study. However, it has been decided to reconsider the entire matter afresh to determine how best the current position can be improved, without detriment to the training needs of the Junior Residents.