

ment showing the details of the facilities and amenities which have been provided so far for the welfare of disabled children in each State during this international year of disabled ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :** A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library See No. LF-3268/81].

### **Effect on eyes of children studying at very early age**

\*500. **SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ophthalmologists who participated in a seminar on the prevention of blindness among children held in Delhi in November, 1981 were of the view that sending children to school before the age of six years increases the chances of eye damage;

(b) whether all the public schools functioning in the country and the educational shops admit children in schools at the age of three years; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and what steps they propose to take to ensure that children are sent to schools at proper age ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :** (a) to (c). The participants of a Seminar on 'pre-

vention of blindness among children' organised recently by the Dr. A. V. Baliga Foundation of Delhi expressed concern on the incidence of damage to eyes due to strain of reading and writing introduced below the age of five years.

Formal education begins in class I for which the age of entry is at least 5 plus; mostly, in fact, 6 plus.

In some cases, children in the age group 3-6 are exposed to pre-schooling. The early childhood education in these cases generally is more in the nature of play group activities. Such early childhood education is mostly under private auspices over which States/Union Territories have no control. Specific information about what private institutions do in this area is not available.

### **Iranian Students in India**

\*501. **SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :** Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether a large number of Iranian students are living in India ; and

(b) if so, the number of Iranian students, university-wise ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :** (a) and (b). According to the information available in the Ministry the total number of Iranian students studying in various universities and Institutions

of National Importance as on 31-3-80 is 4064. A statement giving university-wise break-up is laid on the table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT--3269/81.]

### Progress of Konkan Railway

\*502. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) progress achieved in the formation of Konkan Railway; and

(b) the time that would be needed to complete the project to reach up to Mangalore ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) As a part of the concept of linking Bombay with Mangalore along the West Coast, a 62 kms. long broad gauge line from Apta to Roha is under construction. On completion of the work in this section, there is also a proposal to extend it to Dasgaon.

(b) Apta-Roha line is expected to be completed in 1982-83. There is no proposal to take up the work beyond Roha at this stage.

### Sale of Railway Service Commission Question Papers

5372. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the question paper for the Railway service Commission Examination held in October 1981 at Allahabad were sold for Rs. 50/- to Rs. 200/- per question paper ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government, apart from cancelling the Examination for the selection of clerks, Guards, Ticket Collectors and Assistant Station Masters;

(c) whether Government propose to order a C.B.I. Enquiry into this matter ;

(d) when Government propose to conduct the cancelled examinations; and

(e) what steps will be taken to ensure that such malpractices do not recur ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS AND EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

(a) No complaint to this effect has been received.

(b) The matter is being investigated.

(c) Yes.

(d) In February, 1982.

(e) Instructions have been issued to the Railway Service Commission to ensure that the examinations are held with strict invigilation and in a fair manner.

### Non-availability of Essential Medicines at CGHS Dispensary, Dev Nagar, New Delhi

5373. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-availability of essential medicines at Central Government Health Scheme Dispensary at Devnagar, New Delhi ;