

rated on 19-4-1981. Nucleus field staff have been posted and tenders for earthwork, cement godowns & stores have been invited. The field work will commence shortly.

(b) and (c) A preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey for conversion of Darbhanga-Sakri-Jayanagar section from MG to BG (68 kms.) is in progress. The field work for this survey is expected to be completed by 30-6-1982. The report is expected to be compiled and submitted by September 1982. The matter would be examined on receipt of the report and if found viable the project would be undertaken for construction subject to clearance and allotment of funds by the Planning Commission.

Unauthorised Entry of Bangladesh into New Moore Island

*497. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA SINGH RAWAT:

SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action taken by the Government in the context of efforts of the Bangladesh authorities to have unauthorised entry into the New Moore Island?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): There was some increase of Bangladesh naval activity in the vicinity of New Moore Island some time ago. As I had informed the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 774 on August 20, 1981 the two Governments were in touch on this issue through diplomatic channels. We hope to settle this issue by bilateral discussions as agreed between the Bangladesh F.M. and myself in August, 1980 and reiterated during the recently, concluded talks from September 11-13, 1981 at New Delhi. The Joint Press Statement issued at the end of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit states that both countries have agreed to early talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries to ex-

amine all available data and report to the Foreign Ministers for further necessary steps to be taken with a view to an early and peaceful resolution of this problem.

Death due to Cholera in Capital

*498. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

SHRI LAXMAN MALLICK:

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

(a) whether cholera has claimed many lives of babies and others in Jaiprakash Narain Hospital and other hospitals in the capital;

(b) if so, the number of deaths reported; and

(c) the causes of the epidemic and steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). 9 premature babies died in Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Hospital, in New Delhi between 12th—19th August, 1981 of cholera and other inter-current infections. In addition, 5 deaths took place in September, 1981 in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Kingsway Camp out of 416 cases admitted in that hospital on account of gastro-enterities-cholera.

(c) There is no epidemic of cholera in 1981 and the total incidence of cases and deaths upto 31-8-1981 is less than in the corresponding period in the last year. Immediate measures have been taken to control incidence of such infection, specially in the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan Hospital

Linking Education with development

*499. SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state: