

Increase in Mental Diseases

*272. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an increase in mental diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing hospital and clinical facilities are sufficient for the treatment of the large number of people suffering from mental diseases; and

(d) if not, the steps taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). There is no empirical evidence to suggest that mental illnesses are on the increase in the country but due to increase in the health care facilities, mental disorders are being reported more often to the hospitals and other institutions providing health care.

(c) and (d). The modern approach to the treatment of the mentally ill, which our Mental Health Specialists follow, lays more emphasis on providing mental health services at the outpatient level and in the general hospital psychiatry units, than on admissions in mental hospitals which tend to aggravate the problems of rehabilitating the mentally ill in the community. In line with this approach, the major thrust in the planning of mental health services is in terms of providing mental health services at the primary health care level through the training of primary health centre doctors in mental health, strengthening of out-patient services and reinforcing the general hospital psychiatry units.

Ernakulam—Alleppy Project

*278. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land required for the Ernakulam-Alleppy railway project has been approved;

(b) what is the present progress of the project;

(c) when the work is expected to be completed; and

(d) what is the position of the proposed project to link the above line with Kayamkulam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Land acquisition proceedings are in progress.

(b) 13.5 per cent.

(c) In 1984 subject to availability of funds and materials.

(d) There is no proposal at present to link the line with Kayamkulam.

Removal of Columns of Caste and Religion from Admission Forms for Students

*279. SHRIMATI VIDYA CHEN-NUPATI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in the forms used by educational institutions for admissions, examinations etc., columns for religion and caste still continue to be included and students are required to indicate their religion and caste in those forms;

(b) whether the inclusion of columns for showing religion and caste is not repugnant to secularism which is a tenet of the Indian Constitution;