

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pollution of River Damodar in Durgapur-Asansol Region

*4. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the in-plant industrial waste and river survey conducted by the Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute about the pollution of the river Damodar in the Durgapur-Asansol region ;

(b) if so, the main findings thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the pollution and protect the health of the people of this region ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKER DIKSHIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The survey which covered 8 industries has revealed that about 1,59,100 cubic meters of waste water having 43,100 kilograms Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand is produced per day from these industries. The effluents also contain toxic compounds such as cyanides, phenols, ammonia, etc. Three out of these 8 industries have facilities for partial treatment of wastes although their performance is not considered satisfactory.

(c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Government are promoting legislation on prevention of water pollution which would facilitate more effective action.

Increase in the Incidence of Cancer in Gujarat

*5. SHRI P. M. MEHTA :
SHRI D. P. JADEJA :

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

(a) whether the incidence of cancer has alarmingly increased in Gujarat during the last five years ;

(b) if so, what were the total number of cases registered so far ; and

(c) the remedial measures Government are taking in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : (a) and (b). Detailed information is being collected from the Government of Gujarat and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course. However, some information available in Government of India and given below does not indicate that there has been an alarming increase.

No. of patients admitted during the years

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
2813	3516	3202	3616	4363

No. of patients seen in OPD during the years

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
11,170	6116	7978	8073	7383

(c) In the present state of knowledge, there is no definite and permanent cure for cancer and remedial measures are confined to providing relief through surgery etc. The precise causes of cancer are also not known. Government are encouraging research with a view to understanding the causes of and evolving of methods of treatment of the disease.

Construction of Haldia Port Project

*6. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for slow progress in completing the construction targets of the Haldia Port Project ; and