

(a) whether there is any city or town in Kerala recognised or covered by CGHS/Central Service Medical Attendant Rules;

(b) whether it is proposed to cover at least a few cities or towns in Kerala by CGHS/CSMA; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) to (c). Central Government Health Scheme have not been extended to Central Government employees residing in Kerala. However, Central Government Employees residing in Kerala, are covered under CS (MA) Rules. At present, no proposal to extend Central Government Health Scheme Facilities to any city/town in Kerala is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Navodaya Vidyalayas in the Country

938. KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning in the country;

(b) the medium of instruction in these schools;

(c) whether the medium of instruction in both English and Hindi, the subjects being taught in English and in Hindi separately; and

(d) the reasons for giving stress on English as a medium of instruction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) Two Hundred and Sixty One Navodaya Vidyalayas are, at present functioning in the country.

(b) to (d). The medium of instruction upto class VIII is the mother tongue/regional language and thereafter Social Studies are taught in Hindi and other subjects in English. This arrangement for the higher classes has been considered appropriate as it has been followed in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for many years and the scheme provides for migration of students from one linguistic region to another.

[*English*]

Proposal to Lift ban on Sale of Common Salt

939. PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea salt contains substantial amount of Iodine to meet daily requirement of an individual; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lift ban on the sale of common salt (other than Iodine salt)?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY): (a) No, sea salt does not contain adequate amount of Iodine to meet the daily requirement of an individual. A daily consumption of 10 gms. of sea salt would, if the Iodine is wholly recovered in the salt, provide less than 20ug of Iodine. The daily requirement of Iodine for an adult is 150 ug.