

danger of contracting 'Silicosis' disease:

(c) whether there is any health guarantee scheme for such labourers;

(d) whether such industries, where thousands of labourers are working, are facing closure in the absence of adequate safeguards for labourers; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) and (b). Inhalation of fine particles of free silica in the dust can cause silicosis to a worker. The Factories Act, 1948 and the rules made thereunder contain detailed precautions to be taken by the factories involving processes which generate dust containing free silica which is more than 5% by weight. Silicosis is a notifiable disease under the Factories Act, 1948. These provisions are enforced by the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations.

(c) There is no health guarantee scheme for labourers working in slate-pencil industries. However, the factory management is required to provide necessary medical facilities to them under the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules made thereunder.

(d) and (e). The factories which do not comply with statutory provisions are liable to prosecution.

[English]

Opening of New Medical Colleges on Non-Grant Basis

4502. **DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding opening of new medical colleges on non-grant basis; and

(b) the number of such medical colleges which have been opened on this basis all over the country in 1989, and out of those opened in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) In view of the availability of a large number of qualified medical practitioners in the country and in the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare not to permit the opening of any new medical college in the country, the Government of India is not in favour of establishing any new medical college in the country.

(b) No information is available regarding the number of medical colleges opened all over the country during the year 1989. However, as per information furnished by the Medical Council of India, the following private medical colleges have been opened in Maharashtra during 1989:

1. Bharati Vidyapeeth's New Medical College, Pune.
2. Smt. Sitadevi Bijay Kumar Jayodia Medical College, Bombay.
3. D.Y. Patel Education Society's Medical College, Kolhapur.
4. Medical College, New Bombay.

[Translation]

Promotion of Handloom Cloth

4503. **SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to