

has been laid. More projects for laying ducts are to be executed after the current monsoon.

(d) 250 Kms. of junction cables have been pressurised. Another 200 Kms. are programmed to be pressurised by 31st March, 1979.

(e) A number of important steps like provision of moisture barriers, utilisation of jelly filled cables to prevent faults on telephone lines are being taken up.

(f) Public Grievance Cells have been opened at Telephone Bhavan and at a number of other offices so as to attend to grievances of the public.

Implementation of Family Welfare Programme

*75. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently sent a letter to all the Chief Ministers in connection with the implementation of family welfare programme; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A letter was addressed to all Chief Ministers on 9th May, 1978 by the Prime Minister drawing their attention to the importance of a vigorous and result-oriented implementation of the family welfare programme. In this letter the Prime Minister also conveyed the decision of the Central Government to link 8 per cent of the total annual plan financial assistance to States with their performance in the field of Family Welfare with effect from 1978-79. The Prime Minister has also addressed another letter to all Chief Ministers on

14th July, 1978 requesting them to pay attention to the programme.

(b) The Government have received replies to the letter of 9th May from the Chief Minister of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh explaining their respective position. These are under consideration.

Sino-Indian relations

*77. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the constructive dialogue initiated between Delhi and Peking;

(b) if so, what further steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been any positive response from China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). As part of the process of improving beneficial contacts between the two countries, exchanges in the various technical and specialist fields have taken place or are planned for the near future. Delegations have been exchanged covering trade, agriculture, science, medicine, etc. An Indian delegation of journalists has recently visited China, and it is expected that an Indian cultural troupe will be proceeding to the People's Republic at the invitation of the Government.

The House is also aware that I have accepted in principle the invitation extended to me by my Chinese counterpart to visit China in the coming months.

These contacts and exchanges reflect the mutual desire to improve our bilateral relations as also functional

and commercial contacts between the two countries.

Rural Health Scheme

*78. SHRI S. R. DAMANI:

SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) the details of studies carried out by the Institute of Economic Growth on the Rural Health Scheme;

(b) whether the study has expressed doubts about its success; and

(c) the details of recommendations made for its successful implementation and Government's reaction to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Prof. Ashis Bose, Professor and Head of the Demographic Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi and his colleagues have carried out a preliminary evaluation of the Community Health Workers Programme. This study was carried out during December, 1977 and April, 1978 in 5 PHCs of Punjab and Haryana. The important findings are as under:

(i) The new Rural Health Scheme has been generally welcomed by the rural masses.

(ii) A communication gap exists between the PHC and the community as the Panchayats have perceived the scheme as an employment generation scheme.

(iii) Community Health Workers have visualised the prospect of becoming registered medical practitioners.

(iv) There is a general dissatisfaction about the small honorarium of Rs. 50 p.m. being given to Community Health Workers after training.

(v) Supply of medicine worth Rs. 50 has been considered as not enough.

(vi) Preventive and promotive aspects of health care have not been adequately emphasised during training.

(vii) While different systems of medicines have been included in the training curricula no training other than allopathic has been possible.

(viii) Certain initial/teething troubles in the form of non-timely supply of manuals A.V. aids, kits and honorarium have been noted.

(ix) There is an inadequate appreciation by the villages about health hazards created by insanitation, drainage etc. which needs community action.

(x) Misgivings exist on the part of the medical profession about the new scheme.

(xi) Question of rationalising pay scales of PHC and sub-centre staff needs effective tackling.

(xii) PHCs and sub-centres to be sufficiently geared up to undertake the new responsibility of implementing Rural Health Scheme in an effective manner.

(xiii) Community Health Workers should be selected initially from the remote villages so as to bring early medical aid to such places.

(xiv) The new scheme has benefited the low income and Scheduled Castes more than other persons, though the majority of CHWs come from higher income group.

Attitude of village leaders

Majority of the village leaders interviewed (115 out of 139) have expressed their confidence in the Community Health Workers and have appreciated the work done by them. It has been suggested that more intensive training and higher salaries should be given to the CHWs. The village leaders expect the governmental agencies to tackle their problems, such as improvement of sanitation, drainage, water supply etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.