

Committee of the Festivals of India which includes representatives of the Sangeet Natak Academy, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, etc. The criteria laid down is : Traditional performing art and the highest creative excellence in our performing arts. Apart from this the group art forms, classical, vocal music, etc. All these are taken into consideration.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Does the Government consider us below standard ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Certainly not.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : Sir, the cultural exchange programmes between India and other countries are going on in full swing. Our States have different cultures and different arts but there is no exchange of culture in our own country amidst our own States. It is a tragic thing that many artists from South are not known in North and many from the North are not known in South. The arts have not been intermingled at all. So, there is no cultural exchange in our own country. What is the idea of having festivals outside our country to earn goodwill when we need goodwill of our own people ?

MR. SPEAKER : Make her the in-charge.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : This question coming from a talented artist, belonging to the South is very well taken. The Government is already thinking on those lines and I am glad that I will get the full support of the hon. Member.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a good combination between culture and politics.

Doubling of Railway Track in Kerala

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*371. **SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :**

SHRI K. MOHANDAS :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to

double the railway track in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). An Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for doubling of B.G. line between Chengannur-Kayankulam to Trivandrum Central (125 Kms.) has been taken up.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : I am thankful to the hon. Minister for their having taken up the survey for doubling of BG line between Chengannur-Kayankulam to Trivandrum Central. May I know, when the survey was taken up and when it is likely to be completed ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The survey was sanctioned in June, 1984 and was taken up soon thereafter. The engineering survey is about 75 per cent complete and the traffic survey will be taken up within the next 3-4 months, and after the full work is completed, by the end of the year, the report should be ready for consideration.

SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Has any time limit been fixed for the completion of the work of doubling of this line and if so, what is the time limit ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Let us first await the survey report.

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY : Is there any proposal for Chamaraj Nagar Thiruppur-Palani railway line to increase tourism ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I would require a separate notice for this.

Norms for blood banks

*372. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research has revealed that only a few of the blood

banks in the country resort to mandatory tests prescribed by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act ;

(b) if so, how many blood banks actually follow the prescribed tests and how many do not ; and

(c) what steps have been and are proposed to be taken to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed tests and norms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b). According to the information

received by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1982-83 from 307 blood banks in various States and Union Territories ; Rh testing and HBsAg testing, two of the mandatory tests under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, are done in only 284 and 52 blood banks respectively. A statement showing the number of blood banks state-wise and the various techniques used and tests done by them is given below.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments to tighten up the inspection system to ensure that all the required tests are carried out by the Blood Banks, and we are following up the matter.

Statement

State/ Union Territory	No. of Blood Banks	Serum Group- ing	Tube Techni- que.	Using Anti A + B	Rh Test	HBsAg Testing.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	21	18	5	16	20	1
Assam	5	1	3	2	5	0
Bihar	10	8	2	5	9	0
Chandigarh	1	1	1	1	1	1
Delhi	7	7	3	5	7	6
Goa	3	3	1	2	3	1
Gujarat	22	17	9	9	20	2
Haryana	2	2	0	0	2	0
Himachal Pradesh	3	3	3	2	3	1
Karnataka	19	14	3	7	17	1
Kerala	30	26	4	8	29	2
Madhya Pradesh	20	12	6	7	18	1
Maharashtra	49	39	34	25	48	21
Meghalaya	2	1	1	0	2	0
Nagaland	3	2	1	3	3	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	10	9	3	6	10	2
Punjab	8	6	1	3	8	1
Rajasthan	6	5	2	4	6	0
Sikkim	2	2	1	2	2	0
Tamil Nadu	50	40	8	37	37	11
Tripura	2	1	1	0	2	0
Uttar Pradesh	14	11	3	8	14	1
West Bengal	18	18	4	3	18	0
Total	307	246	103	155	284	52
Blood not tested :	—	—	—	34.45	2.11	58.36

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Hon. Minister might have seen or got reports about the item devoted to the malpractice in the private blood banks in the *Rajni* serial on TV showing large scale exploitation of the misery or poverty stricken people and habitual drunkards by the blood banks, collecting blood without following mandatory tests. Many of the professional donors of blood are sick and suffer from all sorts of diseases including TB, dormant leprosy etc. Even dangerous diseases like AIDS are transferred by blood transfusion. With the new technology, even if there is financial constraint, we can have a phased programme to prevent all this. May, I, therefore, know in this context, if any investigations have been made or are being made into the affairs of such private banks? How many such banks are operating in the country and how many of them have been brought to book in the past two years.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mahendra, will *Rajni* have impact on your question?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The deficiencies in the blood bank transfusion services in the country as brought out by the ICMR Research study have been admitted in answer to the main question.

The testing by the blood banks has not been thorough or comprehensive.

As for the first part of the question about professional donors, a silver lining in the cloud brought out by the study is the fall in the professional donors blood collection in the country and increase of the voluntary donation and donation by relatives in the total blood collected. Sir, blood is listed in the Indian Pharmacopoeia and it comes within the purview of Section 2 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The Drug Controller is the licensing authority and for non-implementation of the licence conditions, the blood bank licences can be cancelled. In addition, the penal provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act can also be invoked under Section 27. If infected blood is collected

by blood banks and if it has resulted in death or grievous cause, the penal provisions of the Indian Penal Code will apply and both the State and the private citizens can prosecute. The Law of Torts gives the citizen the right to civil damage. If doctors are involved in the collection and dissemination of infected blood, the Indian Medical Council can act for professional misconduct. As regards the third part of the question, Government of India have a very comprehensive strategy for development of a blood bank infrastructure in the country. A Committee of Secretaries has been entrusted with the formulation of this strategy. We have asked for Rs. 70 crores from the Planning Commission, and to start with we have been allotted Rs. 5 crores. The strategy is to develop the blood bank system from the district to national level, setting up fractionalisation units for blood, a national centre and a national council and building up blood banking system as an individual discipline in medicine.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : May I know whether campaigns for voluntary blood donations have been met with encouraging response? If so, have the Government chalked out any specific programme for motivating voluntary blood donations and collection of such blood by government and voluntary agencies?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There are 610 blood banks operating in the country. Voluntary blood donation is now responsible for 33.8 per cent of the total blood collected in the country. We do not, as yet, have a national programme of blood banking. As a part of the strategy, we will definitely be encouraging voluntary agencies.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : You have not stated as to how many private agencies have been punished during the last two years.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that many 'formed elements' of blood are imported from abroad. There are a number of

factors in the blood called 'blood products' that are imported from other countries. A few days back, the newspapers carried a report which could not be confirmed that AIDS is also spreading due to the import of these formed elements. Will the hon. Minister inform this House of the action being taken to stop import of these formed elements?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : There is an import procedure. As I said, blood comes within the definition of a drug under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Under the provisions of this Act, new drugs can be introduced in the country and the import procedure is also laid down. Without going into the matter in detail, I cannot give any such assurance as regards banning of blood imports. We shall certainly look into this problem.

Proposal to impose cess on companies for vocational education programmes

*375. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :**

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to impose a cess on the profit making and growing companies in both the private sector and the public sector so as to mobilise additional resources for the vigorous implementation of the vocational education programmes in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) and (b). This is one amongst several suggestions received for raising resources to finance technical and vocational education. The suggestions are receiving attention in the context of the New Education Policy, under formulation.