

and Directors of Institutions has urged the Union Government to bring in a legislation to ensure functional autonomy for them and the Chancellors;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received from the Association in this regard;

(c) whether Government have examined the proposals;

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(e) the extent to which it will be helpful to the Universities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Association of Indian Universities has, in a memorandum, urged the Union Government to enact a legislation to ensure (i) functional autonomy for the Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors; (ii) a uniform procedure for selection of Vice-Chancellors; (iii) provision for a fixed tenure of Office of the Vice-Chancellor, unhindered by the pleasure of the Chancellor; and (iv) the deletion of powers to suspend the Vice-Chancellor whose term of Office is statutorily specified

(c) to (e). As visualised in the Programme of Action for implementation of the National Policy on Education, the U.G.C. has initiated steps to review the management patterns including the structure, roles and responsibilities of various university bodies and to evolve new and effective management systems. A Committee has been appointed for this purpose and its work is in progress. The Memorandum submitted by the Association of Indian Universities has been brought to the notice of the U.G.C. with the suggestion that the Commission should take steps to have the management models being evolved by them widely discussed so that they may become the basis for new legislations.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I would like to know whether a delegation of Indian Universities has met the Prime Minister in March, 1987 ? The Prime Minister had assured them that the Centre would constitute a working group to go into the details of the proposal and will

frame an outline for the legislation. I would like to know when was the committee constituted and when it is going to conclude its work ? What is its outcome and when is the Government going to come before the House for a uniform legislation ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the A.I.U. had submitted a memorandum to the Government in July, 1986. Thereafter, as I said in my reply, the Government forwarded the memorandum to the U.G.C. A committee of seven members has also been constituted for this purpose and its work is in progress. The suggestions of the committee will be considered as soon as they are received.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I would like to know whether it is one of the important suggestions in the meeting for setting up questions bank in each university and also to give directions to the teachers and students for conducting the examination. Also, whether this committee is going to accept such a suggestion, Sir ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Sir, the question asked by the hon lady Member is not related to the main question. She will have to put a separate question for this.

[English]

Treatment of Leukoderma

*517. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether growing incidence of Leukoderma is noticeable in all parts of the country or in some particular regions;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken to identify the causes and the regions; and

(c) the steps taken to give adequate publicity about the specialised centres of treatment for its disease and to dispel the

common belief that this disease is incurable as well as infectious and hereditary ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

No population based survey has so far been conducted to estimate the incidence pattern of Leucoderma in the country. However, according to the analysis of the patients treated at the Central Research Institute for Unani Medicine, Hyderabad, it has been found that the incidence pattern of Leucoderma is high in coastal areas, e.g., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala and West Bengal compared to other States of India.

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine has done studies on this disease which have been published.

Dissemination of information on this subject is done by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicines based on their research findings.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : On the face of it, the answer appears to be 'unreliable'. The survey conducted from Hyderabad centre does not mention about Delhi. I do not know how far it is valid. I have seen with my own eyes a large number of persons affected by Leucoderma. Even small kids have been affected. It is really surprising that our Government has not undertaken any survey to find out the number of persons affected in the country, the causes and its remedies.

Therefore, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the Government will conduct a survey to find out the percentage of people affected in this country, its causes and other details.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Sir, I would like to tell the honourable Member about what he has mentioned just now in his supplementary question. It has been understood from the Director General of Health Services that no data in regard to treatment of Leucoderma cases is main-

tained in the hospitals and that it is not possible to indicate the reasons of the treatment. Under the Unani system, 18,000 cases have been studied. The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine has claimed encouraging results on the use of certain combination of medicines.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that according to some experts, early detection and treatment will make it easy to cure the Leucoderma.

If so, what are the steps being taken by the Government to provide proper treatment and other facilities in all parts of the country.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : This has been mentioned in the answer. This study or survey conducted so far is not on a population basis. It is a patient-based survey, that is, in a particular hospital, in a particular research institute, 18,000 patients happened to come, they made a survey, they made an analysis of those patients and they came to certain conclusions. There is no nationwide survey. If there is not much information about other areas, areas other than from where the patients came, then there is no surprise about it. Such a survey has not been undertaken in the case of any other disease also. I had occasion to submit to the House that we are now also discussing the feasibility of having a proper survey of these non-communicable diseases and the incidence of those diseases and from time to time send it to a particular institution at the Centre so that at any given time it is possible for us to know at least to a measurable degree the incidence of a particular disease. But at the moment, as I had occasions to answer many questions in Parliament, our figures do not happen to be as reliable as we would like them to be. This is a State subject completely. We are now trying to persuade the States, hospitals, research institutions and other institutions to cooperate in this process of keeping records. At the moment, the situation is not quite satisfactory.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It appears from the statement that only the

Unani system of medicine is carrying on the research. Do we take it that allopathic system is not doing any research in this field?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The allopathic system has not come up with anything like a survey. Secondly, they do not have a sustained method of treatment. In view of this and also in view of some shortcomings in respect of other systems, we have found that the Unani system has taken greater interest in this and they have come to certain conclusions. They have finalised a particular method of treatment. They have made the survey of more than eighteen thousand cases which is a large number. Whatever reliable information is available, it is available from this system. I cannot say that the other systems have done nothing, but what they have done is so diffused that it is not possible to conclude anything definitely.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, leukoderma is such a disease, medicine for the treatment of which has not yet been found. But the Government and the health experts are aware of the causes of leukoderma. In such a situation, has the Department of Health evolved precautions to check the spread of this disease and to propagate these precautions among the people?

[*English*]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The reasons which have been adduced so far for this disease are a little far-fetched. Some of them are really far-fetched. I would certainly like the Members to know that there is nothing precise and whatever has come to our knowledge is so imprecise that not much is possible by way of prevention. Now, gastro-intestinal disorder like chronic amoebiasis, chronic dyspepsia and intestinal worms also cause leukoderma. Then, leukoderma has been seen to appear after use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, especially chloramphenicol and streptomycin. This is really unimaginable that streptomycin should lead to leukoderma. It may lead to one in a million cases. All this is so imprecise that it is just not possible to make any

recommendation in regard to what preventive action needs to be taken. The matter is really in the realm of further research. Nothing definite can be said. Symptomatic treatment is given and normal precautions are taken both in allopathy and other systems and that is all that can be said at the moment.

SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI : I would like to know whether any study has been made at the school level in the States regarding leukoderma.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : No, Sir, not with particular reference to leukoderma. But the schools have a programme which is intended to be intensified. I am sure that will cover all this.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to Students for Study Abroad

*518. **SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :**
SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN :

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

(a) whether Government render any assistance under any of their policies to Indian students desirous of going abroad for studies on their own;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to formulate any such policy?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). Under the Scheme of "Partial Financial Assistance", assistance in the form of interest-bearing loan not exceeding Rs. 6,000 is given to Indian students desirous of going abroad for studies on their own, to meet the cost of one-way passage. This loan is refundable in suitable instalments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated