

(c) and (d). As per the latest schedule, first unit of the project is expected to be commissioned by December, 1985 and the 2nd Unit by March, 1986. The delay in the commissioning has been due to delay in the land acquisition for the Power House and Channel, which has been expedited.

(English)

Leprosy Patients in Orissa and Steps to remove Leprosy from Country During the Seventh Plan

1886. SHRI MAURICE KUJUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) the number of leprosy patients in Orissa as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) whether any step has been taken, both curative and preventive, to eradicate the leprosy from the country;

(c) whether during the Seventh Five Year Plan the country will be free from leprosy; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) As per available information, the number of leprosy patients in Orissa at the end of 1984 was 1.97 lakhs.

(b) to (d). The Government have launched the National Leprosy Eradication Programme where the main thrust is on early detection and regular treatment of Leprosy patients through a network of leprosy centres, clinics, hospitals, SET Centres and voluntary centres using modern anti-leprotic drugs like Rifampicine, Clofazmin, etc. In the country as a whole, upto the end of 1984, a total of 3.34 million Leprosy cases were detected of which 3.21 million cases were put under treatment. The disease was arrested in 1.8 million cases till December, 1984. Multi-drug Therapy has been introduced in 12 hyper-endemic districts

in the country for early cure, break of transmission and render the disease non-infectious. The remaining 86 hyper-endemic districts already identified are also proposed to be covered during the 7th Plan period.

To remove the social stigma attached to the disease and to have greater involvement of voluntary organisations, stress is laid on health education, mobilisation of voluntary organisations and public involvement. The Government of India have liberalised the pattern of financial assistance for SET Centres functioning under voluntary organisations. A vaccine developed against Leprosy by the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay is planned for human trials to test its efficacy.

Loans given to Shipping Industry by Indian Banks

1887. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian banks are nursing loans totalling over Rs. 150 crores given to the Shipping Industry, both within the country and abroad and at least half of these are sticky under the Scheme SAFAUNS;

(b) if so, the details of the loans given in the country and abroad separately; and

(c) what is the total amount of bad debts against the Shipping Industry in the country during the last three years and how much had been waived off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has intimated that the information about banks nursing loans given to shipping industry both within the country and abroad is not readily available with them. However, details of loans given to various shipping companies under "SAFAUNS", since the inception of the scheme in February, 1977, is given in the statement