

Effects of Benzene on Doctors

*423. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the toxic effect of Benzene on doctors and other medical staff;

(b) whether in view of above, the Director General of Central Government Health Services propose to suspend the use of Benzene in all Health care facilities under its control;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d). The toxic effects of Benzene have been well documented relating mainly to its use in Industry. However, the use of Benzene in hospitals is reported to be minimal. In order to safeguard and protect hospital staff, it has been decided to set up a Committee to examine the use of chemicals and reagents in laboratories in hospitals/institutions.

[Translation]

Right to Education

*424. SHRI O.P. JINDAL:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to include 'right to education' as a fundamental right in the Constitution;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be included; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion and expansion of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b). In pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme, State Education Ministers and State Education Secretaries discussed the proposal to make free and compulsory elementary education a Fundamental Right in a Conference held on 9-10 August, 1996. The Conference has recommended constitution of a committee under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Education to consider the financial, administrative, legal and academic implications of the proposal. The Committee has since been constituted.

(c) The Government continues in its endeavour to implement the National Policy on Education, 1986, and its Programme of Action, 1992, which provide the broad framework for promotion and expansion of education in the country.

[English]

Monitoring of Private Health Sector

*425. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any machinery to evolve effective monitoring of the private health sector, particularly in view of its sharp expansion over the last decade;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken regarding the quality of medicare with special reference to equipments and total number of beds;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate legislation to monitor the functioning of private medicare institutions and evolve and enforce minimum requirements for quality care;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The State Governments are responsible for regulating the private sector medical establishments for which some States have laws i.e. Nursing Home Acts & Rules, Municipal laws and Land use laws.

(b) The Bureau of Indian Standards have formulated over 1000 standards covering inter-alia hospital planning, administration which, however, are recommendatory in nature.

(c) to (e) : The need to regulate the expansion of the private sector medical establishments, including their standards, fees etc. has been emphasised at various fora.

At present, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides an avenue for redress in case the private medical establishments give unsatisfactory service. Government has been considering various options like setting up a machinery for accreditation of hospitals and nursing homes on the pattern followed in some other countries.

National Dental Research Institute

*426. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any action with regard to the proposal of Kerala Government for assistance to establish National Dental Research Institute in Kerala on the offer of European Commission on Oral Health; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b). A Reconnaissance Mission for a potential European Commission Programme in Primary Health and Family Planning visited India from 21st May, 1995 to June 11, 1995, under which, inter-alia, the furtherance of an oral health project was also envisaged. Kerala State Government authorities have indicated that no detailed project proposal has been prepared for the establishment of the institute. The Reconnaissance Mission indicated that a preparatory Mission would follow in due course.

Development of Colleges in Kerala

*427. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.G.C. has received applications for assistance/grant for the development of colleges in Kerala and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has approved, as per the prescribed norms, development grants amounting to Rs. 1617.91 lakhs for 125 eligible colleges in Kerala for the 8th Plan.

As regards colleges in other States, the Commission allocated development outlay of Rs. 34343.92 lakhs for 3979 eligible colleges in different States for the 8th Plan.

[Translation]

Clearance of Irrigation Projects

*428. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) names of irrigation projects, pertaining to different States, proposals for which are pending with the Union Government for clearance, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in the clearance, project-wise;

(c) the proposed estimated cost thereof, project-wise?

(d) the stage at which the proposals stand at present; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those proposals alongwith the schedule fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a), (c) & (d)-Names, estimated cost & status of appraisal of new major & medium irrigation projects pending clearance at the Centre.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Estimate cost (Rs. in crores)	Status of Appraisal
1	2	3	4

ANDHRA PRADESH

MAJOR

1.	Sriram Sagar Stage-II	697.70	B
2.	Mod. of Krishna Delta	659.16	B
3.	Vamasdhara Stage-II	527.00	D
4.	Bhima Lift Irrigation	744.00	B
5.	Pulichintala Multipurpose	506.20	B
6.	Flood Flow Canal from SRSP	1331.00	B
7.	Mod. of Kurnool Cuddapah Canal Irrigation Project	674.29	B
8.	Veligonda Project	978.96	D
9.	Chagalnadu Lift Irrigation Scheme	43.82	D

MEDIUM

10.	Peddaru Reservoir	26.23	B
11.	Palemvagu	29.13	B