

ment but it has been observed that there is no mention about more than 23,000 kinds of non-prescription, useless or dangerous medicines on sale.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

'Palace on Wheels' and 'Great Indian Rover' Trains

47. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that "Palace on Wheels" and "Great Indian Rover" trains are running in loss ;

(b) if so, the year-wise income earned by them during the last three years ;

(c) the year-wise expenditure incurred on them during the above period ; and

(d) the total amount spent on the fabrication of the trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) "Palace on Wheels" is running at a loss while "Great Indian Rover" has not yet been put to regular commercial use.

(b) to (d). The income from "Palace on Wheels" was Rs. 43.15 lakhs, Rs. 35.73 lakhs and Rs. 47.24 lakhs for the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively. The direct cost on "Palace on Wheels" was Rs. 63.02 lakhs, Rs. 60.39 lakhs and Rs. 76.72 lakhs during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 respectively. Rs. 129.43 lakhs were spent on the fabrication of "Palace on Wheels". In case of "Great Indian Rover", the questions do not arise in view of reply given above to (a).

[*English*]

Use of Foetal Sex Determinal and Sex-Selection Technologies

48. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: SHRI MANIK REDDY :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported use of foetal sex determinal and sex pre-selection technologies in hundreds of private clinics throughout the country with the object of eliminating the female child ;

(b) whether Government have details of number of tests carried out during the last three years, State-wise and number of female abortions made and if so, details thereof ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to ban such sex determination tests and restrict the use of such tests to selected Government hospitals with proper infrastructure to detect genetic abnormalities ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government is aware of alleged misuse of pre-natal sex determination tests in some parts of the country.

(b) No such details are available in the Department of Family Welfare.

(c) The Government of India have addressed the States from time to time bringing it to their notice that pre-natal sex determination tests are allowed to be practised in India only for research purposes and for the diagnosis of cases of sex linked genetic disorders and not for any other indication.

The provisions of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act which generally enable abortions under certain conditions do not provide for protection against the offence of abortion (under the Indian Penal Code), if it is merely on the basis of sex of the foetus.

So far it has not been decided to restrict the use of such tests to selected Government hospitals.

Improvement in Methodology for Determining Various Diseases

49. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any improvements in the present methodology for determining the incidence of various

common diseases amongst men, women, children and infants ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). Under the scheme "Strengthening of Health Information and Monitoring System", three Field Survey Units have been established with the objective of carrying out special field Surveys (Health Surveys) to fill in the gaps in the existing Health Information System. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, twelve such Field Survey Units will be established out of which Three Field Survey Units at Jaipur, Lucknow and Bhopal have already been sanctioned and are being established.

Grants and Aids to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

50. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that grants and aids are being received by Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi from the Union Government ; and

(b) if so, the details of such assistance given during the last three years, year-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) The Hospital received Grants from the Central Government in the past.

(b) No grant in aid has been given to the institution during the last three years.

Modernisation of Airports

51. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to modernise Bombay and Delhi International Airports ;

(b) whether Government are also planning to modernise Ahmedabad and/or Baroda

Airports to meet the growing needs of increasing traffic of international passengers from Gujarat ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not modernising Ahmedabad/Baroda Airports to suit to the needs of an International Airport especially when similar other airports like Trivandrum, Dabolin, Amritsar etc. are being brought to the standard of International Airports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are considering developing facilities at Ahmedabad Airport for introduction of international operations to meet the growing needs of increasing traffic of international passengers from Gujarat subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Connecting of State Capitals with New Delhi by non-stop Super Fast Trains

52. KUMARI D.K. THARADEVI : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government will consider introduction of non-stop super fast express trains connecting New Delhi with every State Capital, at least once a week, especially with the farflung States ;

(b) if so, by when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). Most of the State capitals are already linked to Delhi/New Delhi with super-fast trains. 915/916 Puri-New Delhi Express trains are proposed to be speeded up and made super-fast services linking Bhubaneshwar from 1.8.1986. The state capitals of Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim do not have a rail link.

Proposed Inland Water Transport Routes in Goa, Daman and Diu

53. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :