

(iv) More letter boxes are being installed in villages without Post Office/letter boxes.

Providing Yoga-Therapy in Hospitals of Country

642. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state,

(a) whether the Yoga Therapy has been provided for the first time in CGHS hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, how many centres are there for Yoga Therapy in Delhi; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme for providing Yoga Therapy in various hospitals all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) to (c). Yoga Therapy has been provided by CGHS not in hospitals but at a CGHS dispensary. A regular Yoga Centre has been established at CGHS Dispensary, Chitragupta Road to impart training to CGHS Beneficiaries in Yoga Therapy. The Central Government have not so far formulated any scheme for providing Yoga Therapy in various hospitals all over the country. Moreover, Health being a State subject, it is for the State/Union Territory Governments to look into the necessity of formulating/establishing Yoga Centre in hospitals located within their territories. However, as part of Rural Health Scheme it is proposed to impart training in Yoga through Community Health workers.

Bhutan King's Visit to India

643. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of Bhutan had recently visited India; and

(b) if so, the salient points of the talks held with him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Bhutan paid an informal visit to India between April 23 to 25, 1977.

(b) The opportunity was taken to re-affirm the very friendly, warm and special relations between India and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Malnutrition Problem

644. SHRI K. KOLANATHAIVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of malnutrition in India is grave, being the major cause of maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and blindness;

(b) whether our Research Institutes have succeeded in evolving an inexpensive but nutritious diet which can be within the reach of the weaker sections;

(c) if so, the extent to which the community have been entrusted to take up such diet; and

(d) the steps proposed for combating the grave problem of malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Considering the estimated deaths of 0.5 million children as a result of severe malnutrition and the deaths which occur to a great extent due to malnutrition from diseases like gastro-enteritis, measles, whooping cough T.B. etc., incidence of blindness amongst children under 5 years of age of nearly 7 per cent of our child population and the prevalence rate of 50 per cent of anaemia in pregnant women, the problem of malnutrition can be said to be considerable, if not grave.

(b) Yes, but a good percentage of poor people cannot adopt this diet due to their limited purchasing capacity.