

JOSHI : (a) and (b) Government are not aware of any recent research on the medicinal values of 'RATTI' used by the Tharu tribals of Lakhimpur Kheri. However, some experimental studies were carried out in the past on "Ratti". These could not be continued as the individuals reported various side-effects like nausea, vomiting, giddiness, diarrhoea and excessive bleeding. The drug perhaps causes abortion due to excessive bleeding. Two other plants, namely, *Abrus Precaterius* and *Achyranthes Aspere* said to be used by Tharu tribals for abortion were also tested but no anti-fertility property could be found.

Expert Committee on unemployment among Indian Seamen

4117. **SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL** : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5269 on 25 April, 1982 regarding report of expert committee on unemployment among Indian seamen and state :

(a) whether the said Expert Committee has since submitted its complete report to the Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations ; and

(c) details of the action taken by Government in implementing the said recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The hon'ble member is perhaps referring to the Unstarred Question No. 5269 answered on 25 March, 1982 regarding report of the Expert Committee on unemployment among Indian Seamen.

The Expert Committee, under the Chairmanship of Admiral S. M. Nanda (Rtd.), has not yet submitted its complete report.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

D.G.H.S. Recommendations regarding Pay and Stipends for Junior Doctors

4118. **SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY** : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Health Services in January, 1981 recommended for revised scale of pay and stipends for the Junior Doctors;

(b) if so, whether Government have started giving that scale and stipends to these Doctors;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(d) what are other recommendations of the DGHS with regards to Junior Doctors in details and Government's attitude towards those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The then Director General Health Services in his report in question had recommended far-reaching changes in the Residency Scheme as well as in the structure of medical education of the country as a whole. The said report did not recommend any increase in the pay-scales under the existing structure of the residency scheme but contained certain suggestions concerning rationalisation of emoluments contingent upon the acceptance of the changes recommended by him. The Government has not accepted the report.

Loss on Sports teams' Air Fares

4119. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMED** :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Education Ministry have suffered heavy losses on air fares of

sports teams sent to various countries to participate in international meets;

(b) if, so, whether the losses running into lakhs of rupees have been incurred because of the Ministry's failure to take advantage of the concession offered by airlines under the group inclusive tour scheme;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to overcome this loss and whether matter has been taken up with Civil Aviation authorities; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d) Under Government instructions all travel funded by Government of India is ordinarily to take place on the services of national carriers, i.e. Air India/Indian Airlines. Wherever possible and within the rules of these airlines concessional facilities offered by them like excursion fares etc., are availed of in consultation with the airlines while booking passages of the sports teams going abroad. The question, therefore, of the Ministry suffering heavy losses should not arise.

Conversion of Lattur-Miraj Line

4120. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at a conference of citizens held at Barshi in Maharashtra recently a demand was made for conversion of narrow gauge "Barshi light Railway" into a broad gauge railway from Lattur to Miraj;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that one of the most important places of pilgrimage like Pandharpur is located on this line besides sugar factories providing substantial passenger and freight traffic including movement of agricultural commodities; and

(c) if so, will the Ministry review its earlier views and take up the conversion project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No details of such a conference are available. However, a representation in this regard has recently been received.

(b) Pandharpur is a station on the existing narrow gauge line. Some sugar factories are also located on this line.

(c) No.

Indian Doctors honoured by Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

4121. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our doctors were honoured by Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences; and

(b) if so, the names of these doctors ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Government has no information on the subject.

Railway Coach Factory in Kerala

4122. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2985 on 11 March, 1982 regarding Railway Coach factory in Kerala and state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has since given clearance for a new railway coach factory;

(b) whether the project report has been prepared and if so the details;