

sometime back by the West Bengal Government and another private medical college in Kerala has recently been taken over by the Kerala Government.

Use of English Numerals on Vehicles along with Hindi or Regional Numerals

3918. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in many Hindi-speaking States various vehicles use only Hindi numerals;

(b) whether according to Constitutional provision, along with the Hindi or regional numerals, English numerals should be used; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to see that English numerals are also used by cars, bus, trucks, taxies and other vehicles, along with Hindi or regional numerals, if so, used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (c). Under section 24(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, the registration marks on motor vehicles are required to be displayed in English alphabets and the numbers in the international form of Indian numerals conforming to the requirements of the Sixth Schedule thereto read with Article 343(1) of the Constitution. However, according to the information available with the Government of India, some vehicles have been displaying the registration mark in Devnagari or regional languages in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Assam etc. Such use of regional scripts is extra legal at present. Considering, however, the nature of the problem, the Government of India have appointed a

Working Group to make recommendations regarding the script to be used on the motor vehicles for the display of registration marks. The position will be reviewed after receipt of the report of this Group.

Writing of Name Plates of National Highways in English along with Hindi or Regional Language

3919. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether name plates of National Highways are written in many States only either in Hindi or regional language; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to enquire and take measures to see that name plates of National Highways are written in English also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA):

(a) and (b). The instructions regarding inscription of place names on informatory sign posts along National Highways provide for the simultaneous use of Roman (English), Hindi (Devnagari) and the local language where the same is not Hindi (Devnagari). In the case of Kilometre stones inscriptions are to be in Roman (English), Hindi (Devnagari) and the local language in the laid down order. Figures in every case are to be marked in international form of Indian numerals. There have been no major deviations from this policy. However, whenever any departure has come to the notice of Government of India, the matter has been taken up with the State Government concerned for corrective action.

Criticism of Rural Health Scheme

3920. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH