

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE):** (a) It is estimated that communicable diseases account for nearly 50 per cent of all deaths due to different diseases and nearly 75 per cent of the total morbidity in the country.

(b) The Government of India have already initiated a number of control/eradication programmes in the country to combat the major communicable diseases, namely, National Smallpox Eradication Programme, National Malaria Eradication Programme, National Leprosy Control Programme, National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Cholera Control Programme, National Filaria Control Programme, National Trachoma Control Programme and National VD Control Programme.

As a result of concerted efforts, the incidence of smallpox cases has already come to Zero since July, 1975. Effective action to control the other communicable diseases is also being taken.

**Pipe-line Project at Rourkela Steel Plant**

802. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plants is setting up a huge pipe line project;

(b) if so, whether the demands of the expanding oil industry will be met by this project;

(c) whether it has also introduced special steel alloy hitherto imported; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Spirally Welded Steel Plant at Rourkela is being set up primarily to meet the requirement of Indian Oil Corporation's Pipeline Project for Viramgram Mathura Pipe-Line for the purposes of transportation of crude oil to the proposed Mathura Refinery. The Rourkela Steel Plant has successfully developed Niobium bearing High Strength Low Alloy Steel Plates which were hitherto being imported. The salient features of Niobium bearing High Strength Low Alloy Steel Plates are:—

(i) High Yield Strength.

(ii) Increased Toughness.

**Loss of jobs due to closure of Mines**

804 **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the total number of workers who lost their jobs due to the closure of mines during the last one year?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

**Passport applications pending from Indians in Gulf Countries**

805 **SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians who have gone to the Arabian Gulf countries in search of livelihood without valid documents, have applied for Indian passports;

(b) whether such applications are pending action in his Ministry for a long time; and

(c) whether the Ministry has any proposal to expedite action on such applications?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):** (a) Our Missions in Gulf countries have received some applications for passports from such persons.

(b) Since the applicants are not able to produce any valid documents to prove their national status, the Missions concerned have to verify their national status as well as their character and antecedents through the State Governments in India before the issue of passports to them.

(c) The State Governments are reminded for taking expeditious action in such cases.

#### Medical College at Agartala

806. **SHRI DASARATHA DEB:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have received any proposal from the Government of Tripura to open medical college at Agartala; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Storage of Marine Engineers

807. **SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of marine engineers and navigation officers in the country to man the growing fleet of merchant navy;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to meet this shortage; and

(c) whether Government propose to advise the shipping companies to increase the emoluments, perquisites and leave facilities to officers and crew so as to make the career in the merchant navy more attractive to educated youth?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):** (a) The Indian Shipping Companies for some time past have been experiencing shortage of certificated merchant navy officers, especially in the junior ranks.

(b) To remedy the situation, Government have decided to impose restrictions on Deck Apprentices and Junior engineers by means of a bond, committing them to a minimum period of 5 years service with the Indian Shipping Companies after getting their first Certificate of Competency. Government have also initiated other steps to augment the numbers trained in the training institutions to meet the immediate shortage.

(c) The emoluments of the Merchant Navy Officers and the Crew have already been increased recently.

#### Gold deposits found in Orissa

808. **SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold deposits in Salakana area in Keonjhar District in Orissa have been found; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the quantity estimated so far?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) and (b). In preliminary investigations conducted by the Orissa State Government Directorate of Mines occurrences of gold have been found in the mines dumps of the old workings in