

issued regarding the singing of the National Song.

[*Translation*]

Preservation of Arabic & Persian Literature

*171. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutions set up for preserving Arabic and persian ancient literature and records, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provide adequate financial assistance to these institutions;

(c) whether the Government have received any offer of financial assistance in this regard from abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Rampur Raza Library in Uttar Pradesh and the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library in Patna Bihar are the two institutions which are preserving Arabic and Persian literature and records and are Funded fully by the Government of India. There are other institutions either under the control of the State Governments or managed by private organisations preserving Arabic and Persian literature are records.

(b) The Rampur Raza Library and the Khuda Baksh Library are fully funded by the Government of India. Applications received from other institutions are financed adequately under the existing scheme by the National Archives of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Meeting of Population Growth

*172. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convene a meeting of adherents of different religions to discuss the need to control population growth and seek their co-operation to achieve the goal;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be convened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR):

(a) to (c). The National Family Welfare Programme is being implemented with the willing participation of different sections of our society. It is our endeavour to impart greater thrust and communication efforts. With this objective, a Draft Action Plan has been formulated in consultation with the representatives of the State Governments/UTs Administration, which also highlights the need for evolving a national consensus in support of the programme. As the Family Welfare Programme is to be made a mass movement, cooperation of all sections of society, including religious leaders, leaders of political parties, leaders of social organisations etc. would be sought for implementation of this Action Plan.

Ex-Gratia Pension to Retired Railway Employees

*173. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(e) whether the Fourth Pay Commission had recommended ex-gratia pension to the railway employees who had retired before March 31, 1985; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this recommendation has been accepted;

(c) if so, the number of employees so benefited; and

(d) the number of employees yet to get such benefits and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b). The Fourth Central Pay Commission had not made any specific recommendation regarding ex-gratia pension to retired railwaymen alone. However, the Fourth Central Pay Commission made a general recommendation that the CPF (Contributory Provident Fund) beneficiaries who had retired prior to 31.3.1985 with a basic pay upto Rs.500/- p.m. may be given an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- p.m. in addition to the benefit already received by them under the CPF Scheme. They had also recommended that the widows and dependent children of deceased employees who are getting pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m. may be given an ex-gratia payment at 50% of the above suggested amount. The recommendation relating to ex-gratia payment for living CPF retirees was not accepted by the Government for the reasons that such payment only to those getting pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m.would be discriminatory and would be also have wider repercussions. The Government however, had accepted the recommendation for payment of ex-gratia of Rs. 150/- p.m. to the windows and dependent of the deceased CPF employees with the modification that it would apply to all those who retired or died while in service prior to 31.12.85 without any reference to the pay drawn. This general decision for CPF employees also covered the railway employees governed by SRPF

(State Railway Provident Fund Rules (Contributory)).

(c) and (d). Do not arise as the recommendation relating to ex-gratia to living Contributory Provident Fund retirees has not been accepted by the Government.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Surgery Centres

*174 SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up special surgery centres for promoting surgery in the country;

(b) if so, the locations thereof and the time by which these are likely to be set up particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) (e) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Health' being a State subject, such centres are to be set up by State Governments.

[*English*]

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*175. SHRIMATIGEETA MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to