

applicable to corresponding categories of Govt. employees has also been approved.

(b) and (c). The Delhi University and College Karamchari Union has submitted a memorandum in April, 1986, in which they had demanded higher scales of pay for certain categories of staff and implementation of the revision of pay scales retrospectively. The UGC has agreed to implement the rationalised pay scales from 1.4.1986. The demand of Section Officers for implementation of the revised scale from 1.1.1973 is pending with the High Court, while in the case of Senior Personal Assistants, consultations with the Central Universities are in progress. The demand of Library Attendants/Laboratory Attendants for higher scale has not been accepted. No decision has yet been taken on the revision of staffing pattern in Colleges.

Working of Nooranadu Leprosy Sanatorium

*18. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conditions of leprosy patients in several hospitals in India need considerable improvement ; and

(b) whether Government are considering a proposal to take over the administration of Nooranadu Leprosy Sanatorium in Kerala and run it if necessary, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Maintenance of Leprosy hospitals which is the responsibility of the States is by and large satisfactory though there is scope for further improvement.

(b) Nooranadu Leprosy Sanatorium is maintained by Government of Kerala. There is no proposal to take over this institution by Government of India.

Proposal to Revamp N.B.T.

*19. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the failure of the National Book Trust in regard to promoting

inter-linguistic exchanges on the literary front, Government have any proposal to revamp the entire organisation ;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal ; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE SHRIMATI (KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). To promote inter-regional understanding, the National Book Trust is bringing out translation of the best books in Indian languages inter se under Aadan Pradan series. Till 31st March, 1986, the Trust have brought out 633 titles under this series. There has been no failure on the part of the Trust to promote inter-linguistic exchanges on the literary front.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Catering in Trains

*20. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the considerations for which the erstwhile system of catering food in thalis was replaced by the food packets in aluminium foils in all the Railway Zones;

(b) whether it is a fact that the passengers had to pay less in the earlier system than what they are required to pay now;

(c) whether Government have received complaints from the travelling public demanding the switch over to the earlier system of thalis ; and

(d) if so, when do Government propose to accept the said public demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) In order to ensure supply of hot and tasty food to passengers in more hygienic conditions, packed meals in disposable aluminium casseroles have been introduced in some selected pairs of trains in consultation with India Tourism Development Corporation.