

Increase in Mental Diseases

*272. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an increase in mental diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the existing hospital and clinical facilities are sufficient for the treatment of the large number of people suffering from mental diseases; and

(d) if not, the steps taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). There is no empirical evidence to suggest that mental illnesses are on the increase in the country but due to increase in the health care facilities, mental disorders are being reported more often to the hospitals and other institutions providing health care.

(c) and (d). The modern approach to the treatment of the mentally ill, which our Mental Health Specialists follow, lays more emphasis on providing mental health services at the outpatient level and in the general hospital psychiatry units, than on admissions in mental hospitals which tend to aggravate the problems of rehabilitating the mentally ill in the community. In line with this approach, the major thrust in the planning of mental health services is in terms of providing mental health services at the primary health care level through the training of primary health centre doctors in mental health, strengthening of out-patient services and reinforcing the general hospital psychiatry units.

Ernakulam—Alleppy Project

*278. SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether land required for the Ernakulam-Alleppy railway project has been approved;

(b) what is the present progress of the project;

(c) when the work is expected to be completed; and

(d) what is the position of the proposed project to link the above line with Kayamkulam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Land acquisition proceedings are in progress.

(b) 13.5 per cent.

(c) In 1984 subject to availability of funds and materials.

(d) There is no proposal at present to link the line with Kayamkulam.

Removal of Columns of Caste and Religion from Admission Forms for Students

*279. SHRIMATI VIDYA CHEN-NUPATI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in the forms used by educational institutions for admissions, examinations etc., columns for religion and caste still continue to be included and students are required to indicate their religion and caste in those forms;

(b) whether the inclusion of columns for showing religion and caste is not repugnant to secularism which is a tenet of the Indian Constitution;

(c) whether Government propose to instruct all educational institutions to delete in future those columns from the different forms used by them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA KÄUL): (a) According to information available in the Ministry, there are more than six lakhs educational institutions ranging from pre-primary schools to post-graduate institutions and universities in all parts of the country. A vast majority of these institutions are outside the purview of the Central Government. Moreover it is entirely within the competence of the concerned educational authorities to devise such application forms for admission to and examinations conducted by them. Information in regard to these matters is not collected by the Ministry and is not readily available.

(b) Eliciting information about cast or religion in application forms for admission to and examinations conducted by educational institutions etc. does not offend the provisions of the Constitution;

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Raniganj-Bankura Line and Rail-cum-Road Bridge Over Damodar

*280. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA:

SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR
GIRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Energy, Chief Minister of West Bengal and Members of Parliament requested him for construction of a new rail line between Raniganj

and Bankura via Mejhia and a rail cum-road bridge over the Damodar river;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) action taken by his Ministry thereon in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF)
(a) Yes, Sir.

Statement

(b) and (c). A Survey had been conducted at the instance and cost of the State Government of West Bengal for a new railway line from Bankura to Raniganj via Majhia including a major bridge over the river Damodar. This Survey was completed and the report made over to the State Government in 1977.

Subsequently, certain Members of Parliament, the Chief Minister and certain other Ministers of West Bengal and the Union Ministry of Energy addressed this Ministry in regard to construction of this line. The Ministry of Energy also gave certain indications of coal movement on the suggested line for the Kola-ghat Thermal Power Station. In this background, the South Eastern Railway Administration has been asked to make a reappraisal of the earlier survey in the light of these indications and to make a report.

Private Bus Transport in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*281. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted introduction of private bus transport in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;