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8.	The Railways should, in the next three switch to a computer-based test package for psycho-test administration and evaluation. In this connection, we would suggest that a multi-disciplinary team of Railway Officers should visit the psycho-testing centres and advanced Railway systems such as SNCF, France, and Virgin Railway Company, UK.	It is proposed to implement suggestion as may be by the Government.

C.A.G's Report on Safety Related Scandal in the Railways

530. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) has in its report unmasked a safety-related scandal causing an avoidable loss of Rs. ISO crores to the Government exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of the scam identified by the CAG;

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to deal with the scam and recover the huge loss sustained by the Railways; and

(d) the reasons for keeping the scam under the wraps for a period of two years, till the CAG's report came with the revelations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Report No. 9 of 1999 pertaining to Union Government (Railways) for the year ended march, 1998 submitted by the C & AG to the Parliament in October, 1999 includes a chapter on safety performance of Indian Railways. No safety-related scandal causing avoidable loss of Rs. 150 crores to the Government exchequer has been mentioned therein.

Delay in Research for Aids Vaccine

531. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a crucial research by the National Institute of Immunology, in understanding and predicting immune responses to disease noroubes, aimed at inventing an effective AIDS vaccine, had been held up for over nine months, but for the delay in import of laboratory-bred transgenic mice; and

(b) if so, the extent of delay suffered and the reasons for the delay in granting permission for import and actual import of the mice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) (a) and (b) The National Institute of Immunology has been conducting basic & applied research for the development of suitable diagnostics, vaccines and biological reagents for infectious and non-infectious diseases. For this purpose, the Institute imports pathogen free and genetically defined laboratory bred experimental animals. As part of procedure, the permission is to be obtained from the Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. After procedural formalities, the Institute has received permission from CPCSEA for the import of genetically defined, laboratory bred experimental mice.

**†WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED
QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 2ND DECEMBER,
1999**

Central Government Employees Consumer Co-Operative Society

*61. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2714 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the Society has since got itself registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the rules under which the Society has opened its branches/stores outside Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question of opening of branch stores of the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited (known as Kendriya Bhandar) outside Delhi was examined in consultation with the Central Registrar of Multi-State Cooperative Societies under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Kendriya Bhandar was advised that even without being registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984, it can open and operate its branches outside Delhi, but it cannot enrol members from outside Delhi.

†The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, the 2nd December, 1999 was adjourned on account of passing away of Shri T.M. Venkatachalam, a sitting member of the House. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Friday, the 3rd December, 1999.