

TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of the proposed projects, for the development of the National Highway in Kerala together with the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Demands for Grants for 1992-93 contain a provision for sanction of new development works costing Rs. 123.13 crores on National Highways in Kerala, with likely expenditure of Rs. 488 lakhs in the current financial year.

Atomic Absorption Meter in Government Hospitals of Delhi

*31. **SHRI RAMJI LAL:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Absorption Meter (Blood Scan Machine) are not available in the Government Hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the patients are compelled to go to Toxicology Blood Poison Test Laboratory, Lucknow, Madras or to a private MRI, Sudarshan Aggarwal Hospital, Curzon Road, New Delhi;

(c) the number of patients including VVIPs who were referred by the AIIMS New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh to Toxicology Poison Test Laboratory, Lucknow during the last year; alongwith the deaths of patients occurring due to time factor owing to visit to Lucknow;

(d) whether Government propose to instal Atomic Absorption Meter immediately in AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh; and

(e) if so, by when this machine is likely to be installed there?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The question probably refers to an Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer which is used for detecting metallic trace elements in the blood. Normally, such sophisticated

machines are not available in Government hospitals and are usually assigned to research institutions. The machine is available at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh which have been conducting approximately 150 test per months on their Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer. Very few cases have been referred to ITRC, Lucknow due to non-availability of gas at certain periods. The P.G.I. Chandigarh is engaged in blood testing for several toxic matters like arsenic, lead, copper, zinc and magnesium.

The Sudershan Aggarwal Diagnostic Centre, New Delhi does not possess any such machine.

At the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the machine was being used for research on fertility control. Efforts were made to get it repaired but the same could not be achieved as the equipment was found to be beyond repair.

It has been decided to acquire a new machine for A.I.I.M.S.

Increase in the prices of petroleum products

*32. **SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:**
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products except Kerosene for domestic use have been increased heavily with effect from 15.9.92;

(b) if so, the details of the increase made in the prices of different petroleum products; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the prices when the international prices of Crude and Petroleum products are on the downturn?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) In order