

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and by when it would be implemented;

(c) what progress has been made in this regard, so far, and

(d) to what extent it would contribute to the development of Railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Technology Development Plan has been prepared by the Research, Designs and Standards Organisation which envisages improvements in locomotives, coaches, wagons, track and bridge structures, traction power system and signalling and telecommunication system within a broad time frame. Eight Technology Development Groups with representatives of Research, Designs and Standards Organisation, Industry and Institutes of learning have started functioning and Mission Coordinators have been appointed. Implementation of the Technology Development Plan will help Railways in attaining greater self-sufficiency and indigenisation in the field of Railway technology.

Setting up of a National Board of Accreditation

2688. **SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Board of Accreditation so as to conduct periodical evaluation of technical institutions and their programmes, on the basis of norms and standards specified by it; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and by when the proposed Board would be set up and to what extent the technical institutions in the country would provide better education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MIN-

ISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The new statutory All India Council for Technical Education at its meeting held on 6th July, 1988 decided to set up a National Board of Accreditation to periodically conduct evaluation of technical institutions or programmes with a view to identifying those institutions and programmes in engineering and technology which are worthy of recognition. The Council further resolved that the Constitution and functions of the Board may be decided by its Executive Committee. After these details have been finalised, the Board will be set up and shall provide guidelines for fulfilment of minimum criteria for accreditation and improvement of existing institutions and their programmes.

Enactment of a new Public Health Act

2689. **SHRI KAPIL VERMA:**
SHRIMATI VEENA
VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR
MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, under a research project sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has recommended the enactment of a new Public Health Act giving adequate consideration to the management of waste generated by medical and health institutions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the proposed Act would be implemented; and

(d) in what manner State Governments would enforce the Act in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) A