

In "Statesman" Delhi of 8th June, 1985 to the effect that people of Bara Gagari, village, 30 Km, from Ranchi, are suffering for "Lethiarisis" and die young;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made to find out the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, what remedial action has been taken against responsible persons; and

(e) the steps being taken for proper check-up and medical treatment of the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Lathyrism is a disease of the nervous system generally affecting youngmen in the age of 15 to 45 year. The disease is caused by consumption of large amounts of Kesari dal i. e. more than two thirds of the daily diet. This dal is extensively cultivated in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and parts of Eastern UP, Bengal, Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. Rule 44-A of the PFA Rules 1955 prohibits the sale of kesari dal and its products in any form. All the State Government except Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have banned the sale of Kesari dal under this provision.

The State Government have been advised to undertake necessary health and education propaganda through Radio, Press and other media, to caution people about the harmful effects of kesari dal. The State Governments have also been advised to cultivate low toxin varieties of kesari dal in the kesari dal growing belts.

Proposed Mysore-Tellicherry Line

918. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation urging the

construction of a broadgauge Railway link between Mysore and Tellicherry on the Southern Railway; and

(b) if so what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to approve this project due to severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand.

Steps to provide adequate safety to Delhi Citizens against Hazards of Electrocution

919. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

DR. H. P. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in the *Times of India* of July 15, 1985, captioned "DESU Apathetic to safety";

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to provide adequate safety to the public against hazards of electrocution presented by hanging live wires and open cut out boxes, and of fires by short circuits, specially on the eve of the monsoon this year; and

(c) whether any deaths have been caused by electrocution due to loose wire and cables in July, 1985, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DESU have taken several steps to check cases of electrocution which include (i) provision of adequate guards

on overhead system (ii) removal of defects in cables feeding street light poles and boxes; and (iii) issue of guidelines to public.

(c) During the period 1-7-85 to 25-7-85, electrocution cases in the DESU network have occurred on 11th, 15th and 18th July, 1985 causing death of 3 persons.

Complimentary Passes in Railways

920. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Complimentary (MANAD) passes are still being issued to some special categories of persons;

(b) if so, what are the names and details of such persons to whom such passes were issued during 1983-84 and so far in 1985; and

(c) what are the criteria and procedure laid down for issuing such passes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, Complimentary Card Passes are being issued sparingly to Non-Railwaymen/Organisations based on merits and justification of each case.

(b) A list is attached. (See Appendix CXXXV, annexure No. 23)

(c) The Complimentary Card Passes are issued with the personal approval of the Minister for Railways based on merits and justification of each case.

Introduction of a New Cancer Insurance Scheme

921. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new cancer insurance scheme has been introduced by Government to provide relief to cancer victims;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of this scheme;

(c) whether Government propose to open detection centres for availing of the facility by the patients; and

(d) what are the places where such centres for medical check up are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Government of India have not introduced any scheme for insurance of cancer patients. However, the Indian Cancer Society, Bombay, has in collaboration with the New India Assurance Company Ltd., introduced a scheme, the salient features of which are annexed as statement.

(c) and (d) Grants for setting up early Detection Centres are sanctioned on receipt of proposals from the State Governments/U.T. Governments/voluntary Institutions subject to their fulfilling the criteria relating to staff and accommodation. Grants have been given for setting up 27 such Centres with the aid of Government of India and the W.H.O. under the Cancer Research and Treatment Programme. 25 Post Partum PAP Smear Testing Units are also functioning in various medical colleges under the National Family Welfare Programme.

Statement

Salient features of the new Cancer Insurance Policy:

The Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi, inaugurated the Membership-cum-Insurance Scheme against Cancer, in New Delhi on the 11th July, 85.

According to the agreement between New India Assurance and the Indian Cancer Society anyone who wants to avail of this cover has to join the Indian Cancer Society as its member, the only condition being that at the time of seeking the membership, the