

National Academy of Medical Sciences

698. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times on the 22nd March, 1985 to the effect that the National Academy of Medical Sciences started in 1961 has been destroyed through political and bureaucratic interference; and

(b) whether Government propose to institute a Parliamentary enquiry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:.) (a) Yes Sir, It is not correct that there has been political and bureaucratic interference in the functioning of the National Academy of Medical Sciences as alleged in the news item.

(b) No, Sir.

Homeopathic drugs for treatment of meningitis

700. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that homeopathic drugs have been found to be more effective in treating meningitis as reported in 'Hindustan Times' on 22nd March, 1985 and if so, what are the details of comparative trials and studies made in this regard; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to start manufacture of meningitis vaccines using local, new strain at

the earliest and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The report appearing in the Hindustan Times on the 22nd March, 1985 regarding Homeopathic drugs being effective in treating meningitis has been seen by this Ministry. No comparative studies of the homeopathic drugs in treating meningitis have been undertaken.

(b) There is no indigenous production of meningitis vaccine in India. Government is exploring the possibilities of production of this vaccine as a pilot project.

Indiscipline in D.T.C.

701. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHA-KRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indiscipline amongst DTC drivers is on the increase as revealed by the blocking of traffic in Ashok Vihar as reported in the Times of India of 1st April, 1985 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while Government have been losing heavily on DTC owned and operated buses, buses on contract with DTC are making profits and if so, what are the details thereof for last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop purchase of new buses for DTC and totally switch over to private buses on contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) No, Sir. Incidents of this nature take place occasionally and quite often

this happens when the crew of the buses have been assaulted.

(b) DTC has a fleet of its own as well as a fleet of privately operated buses under its control for which payment is made by DTC to the private

bus operators on a fixed per kilometre basis. Due mainly to the low fares charged from the passengers, the DTC incurs losses on both types of operations. The total working losses (and of both separately) during the last 3 years are as under :—

Working Losses of DTC (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	On DTC Fleet Buses	On Private Operators Buses	Total
1981-82	1771.59	197.31	1968.90
1982-83	2689.95	492.50	3182.45
1983-84	3850.70	739.01	4589.71

The profit made by the private bus operators is not known.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Publication on Urdu Encyclopaedia

702. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the volumes of Urdu Encyclopaedia are likely to be published; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) The manuscripts of the Urdu Encyclopaedia consisting of 12 volumes has been received in the Bureau for the Promotion of Urdu. The Standing Committee of the Taraqqi-e-Urdu Board has recently constituted a panel of advisers to go through the material at the earliest. A special cell, which was required to process its production, could not be established because of the bon on creation of posts.

LTC facilities for Cantonment Boards employees

703. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to allow Leave-Travel Concession facilities to the employees of Cantonment Boards has been under Government's consideration; and

(b) by when a final decision in this matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cantonment Board Employees have already been sanctioned the facility of Leave Travel Concession for Home Towns in July, 1983 and the proposal for Leave Travel Concession for any station in the India is under consideration of the Government.

Group insurance cover for employees of Cantonment Board

704. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for providing group insurance cover to the