

cines easily available in the market; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government for its prevention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 225 deaths due to meningitis in Delhi have been reported since beginning January to 9th March, 1985.

(b) There are no specific or ascertainable reasons for the spread of the disease during this year. The incidence pattern over the years has been irregular without following any particular mode.

(c) Yes.

(d) The following measures have been taken to check the spread of the disease:—

(i) Constant surveillance is being maintained, especially in the affected and congested localities.

(ii) Early diagnosis and treatment, even on the basis of presumptive clinical diagnosis is being undertaken.

(iii) Arrangements for adequate supply of drugs have been made. All the hospitals and dispensaries have stocked sufficient quantities of the required antibiotics and supportive drugs.

(iv) In order to create a general awareness amongst the public and to impress upon them the need for early diagnosis and treatment the services of AIR and Doordarshan, and also of the press, are utilised.

(v) The Indian Medical Association have initiated action to issue instructions to their members regarding proper management of cases.

(vi) The WHO, at our behest, has airlifted Sera for proper typing of the causative organisms.

(vii) The Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated studies on carriers and their management in order to provide information on the epidemiology of the disease for better control.

(viii) It has been decided to vaccinate the identified high-risk groups.

Rural Electrification

15. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the position in regard to electrification of rural areas has recently been reviewed by Government; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for speedier electrification of villages in the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The position in regard to electrification of rural areas has been reviewed in the context of formulation of the Seventh Plan Power Programme. The Seventh Five Year Plan has, however, not yet been finalised.

Rational Distribution of Power

16. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the available energy is used for commercial and domestic purposes in big cities neglecting the rural areas;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government for a rational distribution of the available energy in the country;

(c) what are the various sources of non-conventional energy which have, so far, been tapped by Government to tackle the power crisis; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to make use of these non-conventional sources of energy in running water-pumps for irrigation and other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir. The consumption of electricity in the country by domestic and commercial consumers is around 13 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Presently non-conventional sources of energy such as solar energy, bio-gas, wind energy, biomass, etc., are being tapped in a comparatively limited quantity on experimental basis. The use of non-conventional sources of energy for operating irrigation pump-sets is also in an experimental stage.

Introduction of Trams in Delhi

17. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to re-introduce trams in Delhi;

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

(c) what were the reasons for the withdrawal of trams from Delhi some years back; and

(d) what other modes of transport are also being contemplated by Government in view of the rapid increase in number of commuters in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The main reason for withdrawal of trams from Delhi was that these were found to be uneconomical and were also found to be contributing to significant increase in congestion dur-

ing the crowded hours particularly within the walled city.

(d) Apart from the bus transport system, the Ring Railway with Electrical Multiple Unit was introduced in Delhi in 1982. Further additional modes of transport have not so far been feasible mainly due to constraints of resources.

Report of the National Commission on Higher Education

18. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Higher Education, which was headed by Shri Rais Ahmed Vice-Chairman of University Grants Commission, has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Building of Oil Tankers at Cochin Shipyard

19. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build oil tankers at Cochin Shipyard; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Shipping Corporation of India have placed a letter of intent on Cochin Shipyard Limited for construction of three oil tankers of 86000 DWT each. The discussions for finalisation of the specifications of these tankers are in progress.