

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Vishva-Bharati some attempts were made recently to encroach upon the private land adjacent to the Vishva-Bharti area. The Vishva-Bharati authorities have sought the help of the State Government to stop such encroachments.

Deficiency of Vitamin 'A'

1068. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to malnutrition/deficiency of Vitamin 'A' leprosy, tuberculosis and blindness are fairly widespread in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to remove the deficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Leprosy and Tuberculosis are infectious diseases which are caused by infection with germs (leprae bacillus and tubercle bacillus, respectively). However, it is estimated that 2 per cent of blindness is due to deficiency of vitamin 'A' among children.

(b) A scheme has been undertaken to cover the children of 1—5 years age group with 2 lakh international units of vitamin 'A' solution orally over 6 months. Vitamin 'A' solution is distributed through PHCs, centres with special preference to the children living in tribal blocks, drought prone areas, other backward areas, ICDS blocks and urban slums etc.

Recurrence of Kala Azar

1069. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kala Azar has recurred in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to check the spread of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes. There have been cases of Kala-azar in some parts of Bihar and in the adjoining districts of West Bengal.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to check the spread of the disease include intensive efforts at diagnosis of cases of Kala Azar, treatment with appropriate drug combinations and intensification of vector control measures such as spraying of insecticides for eliminating sand flies which are transmitting the disease from patients to healthy persons.

Absence of psychiatric help in Health services

1070. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that psychiatric help is absent in our health services as reported in the Hindustan Times on the 3rd March, 1985; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the subject report in the Paper. However, it is not a fact that psychiatric help is absent in our health services. Psychiatric health services are available in Mental Hospitals/ Institutions and General Hospitals in most of the States in the country.