

RANJAN LASKAR): (a) According to 1971 Census 3.2 million persons were estimated to be suffering from leprosy in the country.

(b) Yes, there has been a marginal increase due to increased detection of cases.

(c) A statement containing the requisite information is given in the enclosed Appendix.

Appendix

For the control of the diseases in the country several steps have been proposed in the VI Five Year Plan Scheme under the National Leprosy Control Programme and the pattern has been finalised and issued to the State Governments/UTs for implementation purposes. The number of additional benefits have been included for qualitative improvement over and above the 5th Five Year Plan pattern for N.L.C.P. including the following elements:—

(i) The additional of technical supervisory staff for Leprosy Control Units/Survey Education and Treatment Centres and Urban Leprosy Centres;

(ii) Establishment of Regional Leprosy Training-Cum-Referral-cum-Research Centres and improvement in the technical staff for the Leprosy Training Centres.

(iii) Establishment of Leprosy Rehabilitation Promotion Units to promote the success of socio-economic Rehabilitation to cure the leprosy patients through Physiotherapy, Surgical correction of physical deformities and fittings of special tools and Prosthetics.

(iv) Introduction of newer and more effective drugs to manage bacteriological positive cases for prevention of drug resistance and to achieve effective interruption and transmission of the disease. Multi-drug Regimen will be adopted

under the programme during the Vth Plan period.

(v) Sample Survey and Assessment Teams will be set up for the concurrence results of the implementation of the programme.

(vi) The Participation of the Voluntary Organisations in support of the N.L.C.P. is being actively encouraged under the S.E.T. Scheme for which grants are released according to the pattern of the scheme. Arrangements have also been made with the foreign voluntary organisations like Damien Foundation-Belgium. The German Leprosy Relief Association, U.K. Leprosy Mission—U.K. and SWISS Emmaus for coordination of the activities with the National Leprosy Control Programme in order to achieve better results.

(vii) The Programme has been made a 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme from the year 1981-82.

Increase in the frequency of Andhra Pradesh Express

2144. SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Express runs twice a week from Secundrabad to New Delhi; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to run the Andhra Pradesh Express thrice a week or daily from Secundrabad to New Delhi, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Modernisation of the signalling system

2145. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be