

(a) whether Government have under its consideration any proposal for the development of Kakinada Port into a Major Port; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Regional Office of University Grants Commission in South

2456. **SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN BHAMIDIPATI:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state whether Government have under its consideration any proposal for opening a regional office of University Grants Commission in the South?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): There is at present no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Survey into the problems of disabled persons

2457. **SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey to find out the basic problems of disabled persons in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the progress made so far in the matter to solve the problems of disabled persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF RAILWAYS, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) During the 1981 Census the incidence of total disability in the area of the

blind, the deaf and crippled has been assessed. National Sample Survey Organisation is conducting a comprehensive sample survey on disabled persons. Though no formal study of the basic problems of the disabled has been done at national level, their problems mainly relate to prevention, early detection, treatment, education, training, rehabilitation, placement and integration in society.

The Government of India have taken up several schemes to tackle these problems, for instance, national programme of prevention and control of blindness, expanded immunization programme, treatment facilities in various medical institutions, assistance to voluntary organisations to promote education, training and rehabilitation services for disabled, differential rate of interest on loans, petrol subsidy, reservation in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts/services in central services and also in public sector undertakings, special employment exchanges, vocational rehabilitation centres for the disabled, scheme of integrated education for disabled, national awards to best handicapped workers/employers and also to placement officers, National awards to individual(s) and institution(s) for work done for the cause of the handicapped, aids and appliances to disabled etc.

Eradication of Leprosy

2458. **SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme to eradicate leprosy in the next 20 years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the progress made so far in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) National Leprosy Control Programme