

tions in the country during the years 1972 to 1976 is given below:—

Year	Diphtheria	
	cases	Deaths
1972 . . .	16,767	522
1973 . . .	13,948	533
1974 . . .	26,912	523
1975 . . .	21,448	432
1976 . . .	10,928	472

Children in the age group of 1—8 years are susceptible to diphtheria. Occasionally cases may occur in higher age groups and even among adults. The maximum incidence is seen in the age group 2—5 years. The disease may occur in seasonal outbreaks.

(b) The Government have sponsored a programme to immunize children against diphtheria whooping cough and tetanus through the Department of Family Welfare. Children below 5 years of age are immunized with triple vaccine which contains the antigens against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Older children are given only the bivalent vaccine against diphtheria and tetanus as whooping cough is not a problem among this age group. During the current year 18 million children were to receive the benefit of this immunization. It is proposed that larger number of children will be covered under the immunization in the coming years.

Besides a number of institutes in the private sector, there are two vaccine institutes in the public sector producing the vaccine. The Central Research institute Kasauli under the Government of India and the Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation of the State of Maharashtra. Government of India are considering the setting up of an other institute to produce the vaccine.

Representation from the Indian Circus Federation

48. SHR SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Indian circus Federation to create a National Circus Academy on the pattern of the Sangeet Natak Academy; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Circus Federation has been requested to give full details of its proposal in respect of the formation of a National Circus Academy to enable Government to consider it.

Posts of Matrons Assistant Matrons and Sister Tutors in Loknayak Jaya-Prakash Narayan Hospital, Delhi

49. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOCHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 328 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1977 and state;

(a) what is the number of representations received and disposed of in each category of Matrons, Assistant Matrons and Sister Tutors in Loknayak Narayan Hospital, Delhi;

(b) whether the seniority lists in each category will be maintained hospital-wise or whether it will be a joint list of all hospitals under the Delhi Administration;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to maintain a Joint seniority list in respect of Assistant Matrons and Sister Tutors; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?