

(f) For educational purposes the steps taken in Delhi include the following :—

1. Setting up of or giving grant-in-aid to Urdu Medium schools.

2. Provision for the teaching of Urdu in schools, colleges and Universities in Delhi.

3. Grant of permission by the Central Board of Secondary Education for teaching of Urdu as a language in higher secondary classes by any school which wishes to do so.

4. Assistance to Jamia Milia Islamia which provides Urdu as one of the media for higher education.

5. Assistance to voluntary organisations/institutions as well as Urdu scholars in Delhi for purposes such as publication of Urdu Dictionary, compilation of catalogue of Urdu manuscripts, publication of Urdu Diwan, construction of Urdu Ghar and setting up of Aiwan-e-Ghalib.

As regards other Union Territories, the required information is being collected.

(g) The Delhi Administration has received a proposal to establish an Urdu Akademi, which is under their consideration

Shipping Service between Bombay and Cochin

*73. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI RATHNABHAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the re-introduction of a Coastal Shipping Passenger service between Bombay and Cochin ; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is expected to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for re-introduction of Coastal Shipping Passenger Service between Bombay and Cochin was considered. However, as the service will not be economically viable, it was not possible to accept the proposal.

Out-break of smallpox epidemic in the country

-74. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an out-break of small-pox epidemic in different parts of the country claiming thousands of lives this year;

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the number of small-pox deaths in different States and the number of small-pox cases registered in each State ; and

(c) what are the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to eradicate the disease under a time-bound programme ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Since last year there has been a noticeable increase in the incidence of small-pox particularly in the States of U.P. Bihar, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

The high incidence of small-pox can be attributed to accumulated back-log of primary vaccinations, the lingering superstition