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421.	Villupuram	Thirunavalur
422.	Villupuram	Thiruvannainallur
423.	Villupuram	Rishivandhiyam
424.	Villupuram	Kallakurichi
425.	Villupuram	Kalrayan Hills
426.	Villupuram	Thirukoilur

IIT Council decision regarding starting of medicine courses

570. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IIT Council has given its consent to the Institutes to start the courses in medicine;

(b) if so, the details of decisions taken by the IIT Council with regard to commencement of courses in medicine; and

(c) the details of observations made by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding commencement of such courses by IITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), in its 41st meeting held on 10th September, 2010, *inter-alia* decided that the scope of the provisions of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, may be widened to include 'medicine' also, as a large area of medical study now involve engineering techniques. Accordingly, in order to enable the IITs to conduct research and impart education in the field of medicine, it has been decided to suitably amend the Act, *ibid* to provide for instructions leading to a degree to any branch of medicine, without prejudice, to the requirements specified under the Medical Council of India Act, 1956 and inter-disciplinary research for advancement of learning and dissemination of knowledge in such areas of learning, as the IITs may deem fit, not leading to a degree or qualification for practice of medicine. Proposal has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Encroachment of railway land

571. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of surplus land available with Railways;

(b) the details of railway land/property under encroachment by unauthorized persons, State-wise, district-wise and zone-wise;