

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) The Ayurvedic System of Medicine is the oldest system of Medicine in India and one of the oldest in the world. Its achievements are recorded in the classics on the subject.

(b) No. Encouragement is being given to the Ayurveda along with the Modern System of Medicine.

(c) Provision has been made in the successive four Five Years Plans for the development of scientific researches in the different aspects of Ayurveda, fundamental and applied, as well as post-graduate education in the Central Sector, and for upgrading and establishment of undergraduates colleges, hospitals, dispensaries and pharmacies in the State Sector. The following allocations have been made during the four Five Year Plans :

| | (Rs. in crores) | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Indian System of Medicine | Medical Education Training & Researches |
| First Plan | 0.40 | 21.60 |
| Second Plan | 4.00 | 36.00 |
| Third Plan | 9.80 | 56.30 |
| Fourth Plan | 16.26 | 98.22 |

(d) Opportunities for special study exist at the Post-Graduate Institute in Indian Medicines and Research at Banaras Hindu University, and the Gujarat Ayurvedic University. With the all round encouragement being given to Ayurveda, it is expected that there will be adequate avenues for the employment of qualified Vaid. Some of the States have set up standard Pharmacies. The question regarding reimbursement of medical expenses to Government employees for treatment under the Ayurvedic system is under consideration.]

POLYESTER FIBRE PLANT IN PUNJAB

511. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND

MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Punjab submitted any proposal to the Union Government seeking their approval for the setting up of a Polyester Fibre Plant in the Public or Private Sector ; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Government of India on this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) The Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. submitted an application under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for a polyester plant.

(b) It has been decided to reject the application.

अंधापन का प्रकोप

512. श्री राजनारायण : क्या स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन और निर्माण, आवास तथा नगर विकास मंत्री यह बातों की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दुनिया का हर पाँचवाँ अंधा व्यक्ति भारतीय है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार नेत्र रोगों की रोकथाम के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

I [INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS

=12. SHRI RAJNARAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every fifth blind person in the world is an indian ; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to check eye diseases ?

स्वास्थ्य तथा परिवार नियोजन और निर्माण, आवास और नगर विकास मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री बी० एल० मूर्ति) : (क) भारत के बारे में निश्चित आँकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं है।