

will be held in future also. The knowledge gained, as a result, would be put to use by the participants in their routine working.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR CHIEF
MINISTER, GOA**

102. SHRIC. ACHUTHA MENON SHRI
Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange which was released by the Reserve Bank of India to Shri Bando-dkar, Chief Minister of Goa, when he went on a foreign tour in December 1968?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): No foreign exchange was released to Shri Bando-dkar, Chief Minister of Goa when he went on a foreign tour in December, 1968.

**TATA FERTILIZER PROJECT AT
MITHAPUR**

SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON:
SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON
SHRI M. M. DHARIA SARDAR
RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken on the proposed Tata Fertilizer Project at Mithapur in Gujarat;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision in the matter; and

(c) when a final decision on the proposal is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS: (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) No.

(b) The proposal has to be examined in detail from all angles as it is a big project with special features.

(c) It will take sometime before a final decision is taken.

**SURVEY CONDUCTED BY INDIAN COUNCIL
FOR CHILD WELFARE**

104. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: SHRI
Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey conducted by the Indian Council for Child Welfare has shown that (i) nearly 12,000 children go blind every year due to extreme vitamin 'A' deficiency, (ii) seven out of every 10 children go to bed every night without enough food and (iii) twenty per cent of the school children in India suffer from lack of Vitamin 'B'; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to overcome these deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) No survey has been conducted by the Indian Council of Child Welfare. The reference seems to be to an article published in the Children's Annual—November, 1967—issued by the Council, (i) Serious form of Vitamin 'A' deficiency causing a condition known as keratomalacia, leads to blindness and it is estimated that about 10,000 to 12,000 children go blind every year as a result of this condition, (ii) Precise information is not available. However, it is apparent that many children do not get enough of the right type of food, (iii) Nutrition surveys carried out in different States recently have shown that about 10% to 20% of school children suffer from deficiencies due to lack of Vitamin B.