

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) what is the policy and criteria followed by Government for providing CGHS dispensaries in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken for opening of dispensaries for the I.P. Extension and Patparganj where many Central Government employees are residing; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As per existing policy of the Government for opening of new CGHS dispensaries in a CGHS covered city, there should be concentration of 2000 to 2500 Central Government Employees/Pensioners in a particular area of 3 to 4 km. radius where the dispensary is required to be opened.

(b) the Indraprastha Vistar Sahakari Awas Societies Mahasangh Limited, Patparganj, have intimated that about 4000 Central Government Employees/ Pensioners are residing there.

(c) At present, the Central Governemnt employees and pensioners residing in Patparganj and I.P. Extension are served by the nearest CGHS dispensaries at Laxmi Nagar, Gandhi Nagar- Krishna Nagar-Geeta Colony and Myur Vihar. While there are pleas to establish new CGHS dispensaries, this depends on the over availability of resources.

Recognition of Medical Diploma of Russian Universities

462. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical diplomas of certain Russian Universities are not recognised by the Indian Medical Council;

(b) if so, why Indian students are allowed to take admissions in such Universities; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the Indian students coming out from such Universities do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Medical qualifications of only 29 medical institutions in the erstwhile U.S.S.R. including Russia, are recognised qualifications when held by Indian citizens under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. However, recognition of the medical qualification 'M.D. Physician' granted by two institutions, namely, Daghestan State Medical Institute in Russia and Azarbaijan Medical Institute in Azarbaijan has been limited upto 31st December, 2005.

(b) Indian students go to study medicine in the above institutions on their own.

Medical Council of India is not sponsoring students after 1998 for admission to any medical institutions in erstwhile U.S.S.R.

(c) The students who have obtained recognised qualifications are eligible for registration with the Medical Council of India subject to provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. Also, it is proposed to introduce screening test for all Indian nationals holding foreign degrees for the purpose of registration by amending the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

BARC'S Funding of an Anti-Ageing Drug

463. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, have found that a herb, used in Ayurveda in Rasayana Preparations and as an anti-ageing drug, boosts the body's immune system to fight against infection called "Tinospora Cordifolia" and the plant is commonly known as Gulancha or Amriti giloe, is cultivated throughout India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction on its extensive utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The rest has revealed that extract of this plant contains an active principle which enhances the immune response.

(b) The Government has applied for patent (no. 56/BOM/98) titled, "A process for preparation of an immunomodulator from the ayurvedic medicinal plant, Gulvel (Tinospora sp)". This has been accepted by the Dy. Controller of Patents and Designs, Mumbai.

Spread of Japanese Encephalitis

464. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children are dying/have died of Japanese encephalitis in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of dead and those suffering from it; and

(c) what are the preventive measures, if any taken to control the disease from spreading to other areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Japanese Encephalitis affects both adults and children. As per reports received from the State Governments, 2090 cases with 507 deaths were recorded during 1998. During 1999, 1471 cases with 287 deaths due to suspected Japanese Encephalitis (JE) have been reported till October.