

Withholding recognition to Nursing Colleges in Kerala

2031. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Nursing Council's decision to withhold recognition to the Nursing Colleges at Trivandrum and Kozhikode has created a lot of inconvenience to the students who are undergoing training, as they are not allowed to practice outside Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Admissions for 1998 also stand blocked;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Nursing institutions with less facilities are given recognition in the neighbouring States; and

(d) whether Government would examine the decision of Indian Nursing Council and take steps to rectify the injustice done to the colleges in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The Indian Nursing Council has reported that the colleges of Nursing at Trivandrum and Kozhikode had been declared unsuitable on the basis of inspections carried out in November, 1997 and had therefore directed the colleges not to make further admissions.

In the General Body Meeting held on 25.6.98, the Council has decided to permit admission of students with the condition that re-inspection will be done by Indian Nursing Council within 6 months.

(c) The Nursing Council have to follow the norms which apply to all institutions.

(d) In view of (a) & (b) above, question does not arise.

MTP Services in Government Hospitals

2032. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent survey which shows reluctance of women to go to Government hospitals for Medical Termination of Pregnancy services either due to lack of services or over-charging

by such hospitals whereas MTP services in such hospitals are supposed to be free;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

(a) and (b) Recently the Population Council, New Delhi has conducted a situation analysis of MTP services in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, in which it is mentioned that some money has to be spent for MTP services both at the Government and private clinics.

The report also mentions certain deficiencies in infrastructure and availability of trained personnel in some of the MTP clinics. Absence of regular anaesthetists has been cited as a major problem.

(c) Under the Reproductive and Health Programme, expanding the scope and improving the quality of MTP facilities and their utilisation is a major programme. MTP equipment are being provided to District hospitals, CHCs and PHCs with Operation Theatre facilities. Need based training programme, in MTP techniques are being organised through the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. There is a provision for appointment of doctors trained in MTP on contractual basis for providing MTP facilities at the PHCs on fixed days. There is also scope for providing equipment and training to MTP clinics in NGO and private sectors.

MTP services in Government Hospitals are meant to be available free of cost. The Government is drawing the attention of all the four State Governments (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh) to the findings of the study on MTP services, conducted recently by the population council. The matter is also being taken up in the other States.

Budgetary allocations for Public Health Care

2033. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year's budget allocation for public health care sector is only 1.37% (Rs. 3600 crore) of the total outlay, whereas it was 1.8% (Rs. 2,687 crores) last year;

(b) if so, why this reduction in allocation has been effected; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the challenges posed by higher incidence of disease in rural areas, especially combating deadly diseases like AIDS, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) The State Sector outlays for 1998-99 are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission. Therefore, it will not be possible to compare percentage of health sector outlay to total outlay of 1998-99 with that of 1997-98. However, during 1997-98 percentage of outlays for Health, Family Welfare and ISM & H was 2.72% of the total outlay for all sectors.

(c) To meet the health care needs of the people, a comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure comprising 1,36,339 Sub-centres, 22,010 Primary Health Centres and 2,622 Community Health Centres has been established throughout the country. External assistance has been mobilised by the Central Government for supporting National Programmes for control of diseases such as AIDS, Malaria, T.B., Leprosy, and Blindness. To arrest the spread of HIV/AIDS infection, clinical services and cases management activities are being strengthened including creating general awareness among the masses about the disease.

Secondary health facilities are also being upgraded in selected States with World Bank assistance.

Development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy is being encouraged to widen the network of health services available to the people. A comprehensive project for reproductive and child health caters to the special requirements of Women and children.

Disposable Surgical items Manufactured by Foreign Companies

2034. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various foreign companies manufacturing syringes and other single use surgical items are flooding the Indian market;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the packages of most of such items do not carry the statutory labelling information;

(c) whether the consumers are being charged for these items according to the whims of the chemists and stockists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Under the import policy disposable syringes and needles can be imported into the country. However, the majority of such items sold in India are assembled within the Country. There are very few importers of finished disposable syringes and needles.

(b) The requirement of labelling are seen under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules and have to be adhered to. Other than the absence of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and import licence number in a few imported consignments, no other labelling violation has been brought to the notice of the authorities. The importers as well as Port Officers have been directed to ensure that the MRP and import license number are displayed on the outer packaging cartons.

(c) Disposable syringes and needles are not covered under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO); nor has the Drug Controller General (India) received any official complaints from Consumers in this regard.

(d) In view of (c) does not arise.

Scheme for access to Health Care for all

2035. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: