

(a) whether a delegation consisting of Heads of Indian Medical Association (IMA), the network of practicing doctors met him last month to propose a three-pronged scheme to ensure affordable access to health care for all citizens without the State having to spend more money;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the action Government propose to take thereon?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the Indian Medical Association recommending various measures like raising the expenditure on health care, opening up of the health insurance sector, declaring the health care as an infrastructure sector, extending Customs Duty exemption for import of specialized medical equipment etc. The proposals are under examination.

Annual requirement of Blood Units in the Country

2036. **SHRI E. BALANANDAN:**
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN
PILLAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of blood units in the country and the contribution of blood by the professional donors;

(b) in view of the Supreme Court order banning professional donors' contributing blood, what steps Government propose to meet the fall in the supply; and

(c) the number of medical colleges without blood banks in the country, State and Union territory-wise?

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

(a) As per norms recommended by W.H.O. the annual requirement of blood should be to the tune of 42 lakh units. Government has imposed a ban on collection of blood from professional donors with effect from 1.1.1998.

(b) To meet the fall in supply of blood, Government of India have taken a number of steps for augmenting voluntary blood donation

by:-

- launching a television and radio campaign to motivate people to donate blood.
- preparation and dissemination of publicity material aimed at promoting blood donation.
- initiating a pilot programme to give an impetus to blood donation through the National Council for Science and Technology Communication.
- undertaking training of motivators.
- celebration of the voluntary blood donation day on 1st October every year.

(c) Indian Medical Council Act 1956 makes it mandatory to establish a blood bank in every Medical College having an admission capacity of 100 and more. Informations relating to Colleges with however capacity will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

Strike in Safdarjung Hospital

2037. **DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that health care services at the Safdarjung Hospital were paralysed recently as the resident doctors and Karmacharis stayed away from work;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons and the events leading upto the paralysing of the services at the Hospital; and

(c) the steps initiated to ward off such situations in this hospital and other leading Government hospitals when common citizens become vulnerable every now and then?

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

(a) and (b) The health care services at Safdarjung Hospital were partially paralysed as resident doctors and Karmacharis stayed away from work on a controversy regarding use of Resident Doctors Hostel Mess facilities by the Karmacharis.

(c) Hospital authorities have taken action to establish a separate canteen for Karmacharis in the Hospital. The Medical Superintendents of the Central Government Hospitals are re-

quired to take appropriate steps so that medical services could be provided to the general public when such situations arise. The Hospital authorities generally hold meetings with the employees' representatives to sort out their grievances.

Setting up of State Blood Transfusion Council in Maharashtra

2038. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Blood Transfusion Council has been set up in Maharashtra as per Supreme Court Judgement of 4th January, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when such a council will be set up in the State?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra State Blood Transfusion Council has been set up as a Society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Regn. No. 118/1997 G.B.S.D.)

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Experiment in Contraceptives

2039. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Statesman, New Delhi edition dated 25th April, 1998 under the caption "No more guinea-pigs for W Contraceptives"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is imperative that newer contraceptive technologies are made available to Indian women so that there is wider choice of contraceptives for them to choose from.

Indian Council of Medical Research

(ICMR) has a rigorous review mechanism for conduction of clinical trials. Adequate steps are taken in the interest of our women while conducting research with newer contraceptive technologies in Indian context.

Eradication of Malaria

2040. PROF. RAM KAPSE:

SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 33 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Malaria continues in rampage" which appeared in Times of India (Bombay) on 27th November, 1997 regarding continuance of *Plasmodium falciparum* in certain parts of the country and Jabri malaria sparked off fear among public in Gujarat, Calcutta etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the special efforts made or proposed to be made to eradicate the disease totally;

(c) if not, the reasons for failure to take adequate remedial and preventive measures; and

(d) by when an effective programme for total eradication of the disease will be commenced by Government?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The steps taken for Prevention & Control of Malaria including P.f. malaria are:—

— 100% Central Assistance is being provided to the Seven North-Eastern States since December, 1994, beside a Centrally sponsored Programme on a 50:50 basis under NMEP for other States in the country.

— Early diagnosis and prompt treatment of Malaria cases through Primary Health Care System, Hospitals, Dispensaries, Malaria Clinics etc. and Drug distribution Centres, Fever Treatment Depots at the Village level, is undertaken by the State Governments.