

**Financial Irregularities in JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry**

4180. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to ascertain the financial and administrative irregularities, a Central team headed by an I.A.S. officer has been sent to JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry;

(b) whether the Central team has noted certain irregularities in the Department of Cardiology and frozen the accounts called "Heart Care";

(c) whether on account of account freezing heart operations were not done at JIPMER Hospital;

(d) whether any other alternative steps have been taken for heart operations; and

(e) whether any action was initiated against the concerned officials for their financial irregularities; if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team noted certain irregularities in the purchase of heart valves by the Department of Cardiology. No account was frozen.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Institute has been advised that till such time the Institute is able to establish a system for procurement and supply of consumables and disposable, the patients, could be asked to purchase the same from the open market. The Institute could also ask the authorised suppliers to supply different kinds of valves at a counter so that the purchases can be made directly. The Institute could also give a list of firms and the rough cost of the items so that the choice of the final purchase is left to the patient's family.

There should be a notice placed prominently so that patients are fully aware of the process and the hospital should not involve itself in effecting purchases for the patients.

(e) The report is receiving the attention in Vigilance Department in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

**Kids down with food poisoning**

4181. SHRI PREM CHAND 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 which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 7th June, 1998 under the caption "over 100 kids down with food poisoning";

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

(c) whether carelessness is the main cause of such tragedies; and

(d) if so, details of such tragedies occurred during the last five years and the officials responsible thereof and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHIL-MALAI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information made available by the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration, Govt, of N.C.T. Delhi, the Secretary Arya Bal Grah, Darya Ganj, Delhi reported that 95 children were admitted in two hospitals after complaint of stomach pain and vomiting on 6.6.1998.

The children had reportedly consumed stale rice alongwith boiled fried grams and sweet lemon. The incident occurred due to the negligence on the part of the Kitchen Supervisor who had not examined rice while distributing to the inmates or the same was stored in the fridge but due to failure of electricity in