

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) One post of Adviser (Ayurveda) was created on 5.6.1995 and was filled on 1.2.2000 in consultation with UPSC.

Two posts were upgraded to the level of Adviser and Medical Superintendent in Supertime Scale in November, 1995. The recruitment rules of these posts were amended and notified on 16th March, 1998. The posts were circulated/advertised in September/ October, 1998 after completion of procedural requirements and on the advise of the UPSC the posts were re-advertised in December, 1999. In response 17 applications have been received and the UPSC has been requested to make selection at an early date.

Illegal blood trade

3070. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flourishing illegal trade of sale of blood by private blood banks in the country because of non-existence of blood banks in private hospitals and nursing homes; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to check illegal practice of sale of blood by private blood banks in the country and to provide blood bank facility in recognised private hospitals and nursing homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No incidence of illegal trade of sale of blood by private blood banks in country has been reported. Most of the large private hospitals have their own blood bank and those hospitals/nursing homes which do not have their own Blood Bank can obtain blood from licensed Blood Banks in their vicinity.

Professional Donation of blood has been banned in the country since 1st January, 1998. For generating enough blood through voluntary blood donation programme, the Government of India have taken a number of steps such as media campaign through, TV, AIR

and newspapers, developing IEC material for one-to-one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support voluntary blood donation. Strict vigilance is being maintained by Drug Controllers of all States to ensure that no paid donation takes place and no unlicensed Blood Banks operate.

Vacant posts of CGHS doctors of ISM and H

† 3071. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of posts of doctors of ISM and H lying vacant in each dispensary and unit of CGHS;
- (b) whether Government have decided to fill up such posts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to fill up the posts of doctors of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani systems of medicine in Delhi and out of Delhi and by when these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) the State-wise number of ISM and H doctors working in CGHS dispensaries/Units in India is given in the statement. (See below)

(b) to (d) The nominations from UPSC for appointment to the posts of Medical officer (Homoeopathy) and Medical Officer (Unani) have been received and these physicians will be posted to fill up the vacant posts under CGHS after completion of administrative formalities. Besides, a requisition is pending with the UPSC for recruitment to the posts of Medical Officer (Ayurveda). As and when nominations are received from the UPSC, Ayurvedic physicians will be posted to fill up the vacant posts under CGHS.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.