

Sale of Kidneys in Indian Hospitals

1565. SHRI B.P. APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals who came to India for treatment during the last two years;

(b) the number of such nationals, out of them, who underwent kidney transplantation;

(c) the number of cases reported regarding selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals; and

(d) whether Government are going to take any stringent measures to keep a check on the incidents of selling of kidneys?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purpose and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act has since been adopted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Use of Calcium Carbide for Ripening Fruits

1566. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ripe for Reproach: The mango's tango with chemicals", appearing in the Times of India, dated 23rd May, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that the use of Calcium Carbide, which is a chemical, is banned to speed up the ripening process under Rule 44A of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are no standards for testing adulteration since mango, papaya and other fruits are perishable commodities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken against offenders?