measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation.

6. The situation is being monitored.

Performance of State Programme for control of Blindness in Gujarat

2154. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of State Programme for Control of Blindness and the district blindness control societies in Gujarat; and

(b) the funds released under the National Blindness Control Programme during 2001, till date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) Gujarat is one of the best performing State in the country. Cataract Operations performed during the last 3 years in Gujarat are as under :-

Year	Target	Cataract Operations Performed
1998-99	252000	291030
1999-00	290000	414580
2000-01	300000	405386

All the District Blindness Control Societies are functioning satisfactorily in the State.

(b) An amount of Rs. 62 lakhs has been released to State Blindness Control Society in Gujarat during 2001-02 (till date) for GIA to various DBCS.

Mental asylums

2155. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) how Government propose to ensure coverage of all the mental asylums in the survey directed by the Supreme Court of India;

(b) whether Government have defined the expression 'Mental Asylum' giving it a wider connotation and bringing all types of mental asylums mushrooming all over the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) In pursuance of the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 15.10.2001, Committees have been constituted to visit all registered mental hospitals and to submit a report about the state of facilities available for treating the mentally ill people in such registered mental health care centers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Guidelines for approval of Bio-equivalence Centre

2156. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no guidelines for approval of bio-equivalence centres;

(b) if so, how the approvals are being granted by the Drug Controller; and

(c) whether the Drug Controller-General of India is accepting study reports from Centres which have no approval and when do they propose to come out with guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Bio availability is the process by which the drug is released from the oral dosage form and moves to the site of action. Bioavailability data provides an estimate of the fraction of the drug absorbed as well as its subsequent distribution and elimination.

Under the provisions of the Drug and Cosmetics Rules, there is no specific statutory requirement for approval of centres/laboratories which undertake bio-availability or bioeqvalence studies. However, there are internationally accepted norms about the facilities which are required to undertake such studies, the