

(d) what is the monthly average earning of a member of this Society ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Society makes payment to the members on the basis of piece rate as well as on monthly/daily rate basis. The monthly average earning of the members vary according to the job performed.

Purity of edible salt

2807. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum dated the 22nd July, 1990, has been received by Government from the Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur, regarding increase in the purity of edible salt;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the memorandum;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether it is a fact that purification of common salt from the existing 96 percent to 98 percent would make this essential item more costly; and

(e) whether the reasons mooted for raising the purity are backed by scientific study and health needs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar had suggested to increase the sodium chloride content in common salt from 96% to 98%. However, there is no proposal with the Government

for implementation of the suggestion. In case the sodium chloride content in common salt is increased from 96% to 98% Salt may become costlier.

Memorandum from the Small Hand Tools Manufacturing Association, Jalandhar, Punjab

2808. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Small Hand Tools Manufacturing Association, Industrial Area, Jalandhar, Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said memorandum; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) A letter dt. 14.10.88 from Small Hand Tools Manufacturing Association, Jalandhar was received by the Office of the DC (SSI). The allegations were against the Principal Director Central Institute of Hand Tools (CIHT), Jalandhar, and are:

- (1) Incorrect recording of minutes of the 12th Governing Council Meeting of CIHT, Jalandhar.
- (2) Taking Government car to Hoshiarpur daily.
- (3) Doing Private Trading.
- (4) Making wrong in selection of staff.
- (5) Sending material without payment.

(c) The allegations were enquired into and were found without substance.

Import of finished medicines

2809. CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

(a) what are the names of finished medicines imported for stock and sale in the country from 1st Jan., 1990 to 31st July, 1990;

(b) names of the importers, quantity imported by each of medicine, CIF price per unit and source of import ;

(c) what are the names of the medicines which are exempted from custom duty and since when and what are the basis on which his Ministry recommended for exemption of duty;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is clearing new drugs and new combinations of drugs for marketing in the country; and

(e) if so, names of new drugs and new combinations of one or more drug for which his Ministry received applications during 1989 and 1990 Upto 20th August, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from Port Officers and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) The Ministry recommends for exemption from customs duty for the drugs which are life-saving. The list is as per General exemption No. 100, copy enclosed (See Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 99).

(d) The Drugs Controller (India) clears the new drugs and new com-

binations of drugs for marketing in the country after examination and consultation with experts.

(e) A total number of 86 application for clinical trial approval of New Drugs and 96 No. of combinations have been received during the said period. The information would remain confidential till a decision is taken on these applications.

Sterilisation deaths in the country

2810. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise number of sterilisation deaths during the last three years; and

(b) what steps are proposed to reduce the number of deaths to zero in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The number of sterilization deaths recorded in States/Union Territories during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 are furnished in the enclosed statement. (See below).

(b) The following steps have been taken for improving quality of sterilisation and Preventing morbidity and mortality:—

1. Centres of Excellence at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras are imparting training to doctors in standards for male and female sterilisation to bring about quality assurance ;

2. District/State Level Quality Assurance Committees are functioning to oversee the complications and mortality occurring due to sterilisation/MTP/IUD and to investigate into the cause of death and its prevention;

3. Central Laparoscopic Training Centres are functioning in medical