

(c) if so, whether Government are taking steps to fill up the vacancies to appoint teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) The posts of Teachers lying vacant in the Kendriya Vidyalaya, JIPMER, Pondicherry during, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 were 5, 2 and 1 respectively. For filling up the existing 1 vacancy, interviews are being conducted by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. As only one post has been vacant in 1987-88, studies of the students have not been adversely affected.

#### Blindness eradication programme

1716. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2997 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although the Government have been extending the blindness eradication programme, the problem stands unabated;

(b) if so, what other steps Government have taken to eradicate blindness; and

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) There is no such indication. Blindness can not be eradicated but can be controlled. In order to check blindness, Government have launched a National Programme. Under this programme additional infrastructure

from PHC level upwards has been developed. Preventive and promotive aspects of eyecare coupled with eye camp approach for outreach areas and Health Educations measures are the main planks of the Programme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### Recommendation for the drugs required for National Health Programme

1717. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3406 given in Rajya Sabha on the 9th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 14 programmes covered under the National Health Programme;

(b) if so, what is the basis on which only drugs required for Eight programmes covered under the National Health Programme have been recommended for inclusion in category I;

(c) what are the names of the other programmes covered under the National Health Programme for which drugs have not been recommended along with the reasons; and

(d) by when all the drugs required for all the programmes under the National Health Programme are likely to be recommended for inclusion in category I?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) There are eleven National Health Programmes.

Drugs required for the following National Health Programmes have not so far been recommended for inclusion in Category I of the Drug Prices Control Order.

1. **STD Control:** Drugs for STD are mainly antibiotics which are not exclusively used for this Programme. They are used extensively for other infections also and are included in Category II of the Drug Price Control Order.

2. **National Family Welfare Programme** including Mother and Child Health, Folic Acid and Vitamin A which are used under National Family Welfare Programme concerning Mother and Child Health have been included in Category II of the Drugs Prices Control Order as they are used for other conditions also. Ferrous Sulphate being used for other purposes besides Mother and Child Health, has not been recommended for Price Control.

3. **National AIDS Control Programme:** There are, as of now, no specific drugs for treatment of AIDS.

#### **Change in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act**

1718. **SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose any change in Drugs and Cosmetics Act in view of the Lentin Commission report; and

(b) whether Government propose to issue fresh guidelines for the implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act as Lentin Commission has found implementation of the Act defective?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA):** (a) and (b) The Justice Lentin Commission Report has recently been received and is being examined by the Government of India.

#### **Syntex plastic water storage tanks found to be Hazardous to the human health**

1719. **SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Syntex' and other black plastic water storage tanks have been found to be hazardous to the human health, if so, what are their likely effects of human health;

(b) what preventive measures are considered by the Government to safeguard public health against these hazards; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Bombay Municipal Corporation's Public Health Department have banned the use of such water tanks storage tanks and recommended the builders not to use such storage tanks in their future constructions, if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA):** (a) and (b) ISI has published code of practice for safe use of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and its co-polymer in contact with foodstuff, pharmaceuticals, and drinking water (the relevant ISI publication number of 7288 years 1974). Second ISI publication is code of practice for safe use of polymethylene in contact with food stuff, pharmaceuticals and drinking water. (publication number is 7277 year 1974) if plastic materials is prepared as per above mentioned publications it may not have harmful effect on the water stored. As 'Syntex' water tanks are not ISI marked, it can't be said whether water stored in them is hazardous to human health.

(c) The Bombay Municipal Corporation have not banned the use of 'Syntex' tanks.