

(c) The following specific steps are being taken to control the incidence of malaria under the Modified Plan of Operation of malaria being implemented from 1-4-1977:

(1) Every village is visited fortnightly by a surveillance worker to detect fever cases, collect blood smears and to give presumptive treatment.

(2) The Laboratories in the Primary Health Centres provide prompt examination of blood smears of fever cases and institution of radical treatment of positive cases.

(3) Drug Distribution Centres and Fever Treatment Depots are functioning in the villages so that the drug could be made available with no loss of time to the fever cases.

(4) Insecticidal spray operations are under-taken in all the rural areas which have incidence of two or more cases per thousand population per year.

(5) Besides, in order to control the spread of *P. falciparum* infection, which causes cerebral malaria, the *P. falciparum* Containment Programme is being implemented in the affected areas of the country with the assistance from the World Health Organisation Swedish International Development Agency.

Rise in Goitre incidence

3043. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep rise in goitre incidence in various States as National Goitre Con-

trol Programme launched about 20 years ago could not make much headway; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government are taking to tackle this problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) (a) Goitre is a non-communicable disease caused by deficiency of iodine in food. It was earlier known to be prevalent in endemic form in the Sub-Himalayan belt from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. Recent surveys under the National Goitre Control Programme have disclosed its prevalence also in the Terai regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and the Union Territory of Delhi.

(b) In order to further strengthen the programme, the State Governments have been advised as follows: —

(1) To encourage commercial production of iodized salt both in the public as well as private sector to meet the requirements of iodized salt of their endemic areas.

(2) To set up goitre control units in their State, Health Directorates.

(3) To lift the entire allocated quota of iodized salt.

(4) To strictly enforce the provision of the PFA Act banning the sale of non-iodized salt in the goitre endemic areas.

(5) To set up State level coordination committee on goitre control programme for its effective implementation.

(6) To keep constant monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

Ministry of Railways have also been advised to extend their full co-operation by providing the required number of railway wagons for movement

>f iodized salt (covered wagons) on priority basis.

A high level coordination committee has also been set up under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to review the Goitre-Control Programme at the Central level.

Fair Price Shops in Delhi

3044. SHKIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fair price shops in Delhi/New Delhi are not getting their full quota of ration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are long queues before the fair price shops;

(c) whether it is a fact that only 50 per cent people are able to get their ration; and

(d) what steps are being taken to restore the full quota of ration to the shops?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) to (d) The primary responsibility for implementation of and supervision over the public distribution system rests with the States/UTs. Under the public distribution system, allocation of essential commodities to various States/UTs, including Delhi, are made on consideration of a number of factors, including the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of various States, market availability, etc. The public distribution system is meant to supplement the availability of essential commodities through the mechanism of open market, and not to meet the entire requirements of the consumers. Government has already taken steps to ensure regular supply of essential commodities, allocated by it to Delhi from time to time under the System. These include adequate stocking in the storages in Delhi, issue of allocations

in time, proper system of deliveries to fair-price shops etc. Delhi Administration has been told to ensure that these commodities are equitably distributed to the various sections of the population in the Union Territory. Nevertheless, in a system of this magnitude, possibility of temporary and localised shortages taking place in certain cases cannot be completely ruled out. Delhi Administration takes steps to remedy the situation wherever these come to its notice.

Co-operation in Health and Medical Service

3045. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the Soviet Union entered into a pact on close cooperation in health and medical service as reported in the Indian Express of 21st July, 1983;

(b) if so, the names and designations of the signatories to the agreement on both the sides, the details of other persons who were the Members of Indian delegation to the Soviet Union and their counterparts in Moscow;

(c) what were the reasons for not sending/inviting delegation from other countries on this important aspect; and

(d) whether similar delegations are being sent to other countries viz. U.K., France, Japan, U.S.A. West Germany etc., if so, the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) An Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Medical Sciences and Public Health was signed between India and USSR on 14th March, 1979. In furtherance of