

Detection of insecticidal protein in human blood

103. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that as per the study conducted by the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, scientists have detected insecticidal protein, Cry 1Ab, in the human blood;
- (b) whether it is a fact that as per the study, Bt. Toxin does not break down in the human gut; and
- (c) what would be the Ministry's approach to the existing Bt. Crops and on those Bt. Crops which are going to be introduced in the country in view of the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) The Study reports that scientists in Canada have detected the presence of Cry I Ab which is one of the residues derived from GM crops in the blood of both pregnant and non-pregnant women as well as in fetal cord blood. The study also suggests that the toxins derived from insect resistant GM crops may not be effectively eliminated in humans.

- (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Staff strength earmarked for SC/ST categories

104. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry, Group-wise *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- (b) out of the total strength, the number of jobs earmarked for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) categories as per Government's reservation policy; and
- (c) the reasons for the staff strength not being in accordance with the reservation policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are two Departments namely Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. The details of sanctioned staff strength in the Ministry, Group-wise *i.e.* Group A to Group D is placed as under:—

Sl.No.	Group	DHI	DPE
1	2	3	4
1.	A	49	30

1	2	3	4
2.	B	87	32
3.	C	57	31
4.	D (Redesignated as Group 'C' as per VI Central Pay Commission)	56	33
TOTAL :		249	126

(b) and (c) The posts have been encadred in different relevant service cadres *i.e.* Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T), the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Department of Official Languages, Indian Cost Account Service (ICoAS), Indian Statistical Service (ISS) and Subordinate Statistical Services (SSS). The respective Cadre Control Departments are responsible for following the Government of India's reservation policy while making appointment to the post.

Frequent hike in petrol prices

105. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that within the last two years there had been a 40 per cent hike in petroleum prices in India, in comparison to other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details of increase in petrol prices during the above mentioned period, month-wise, in India and some of the other Asian countries; and

(c) what preventive steps Government has taken to devise such a mechanism that frequent petrol price hike may not take place and the common man is saved from the impact of rise in oil prices and other essential commodities as a result thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of Retail Selling Price (RSP) of petrol in India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and Nepal from April, 2010 to November, 2011 are given below:—

	(RSP in Indian ` per litre)			
	India (Delhi)	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Nepal
RSP in April, 2010	47.93	38.74	45.23	49.98
RSP in November, 2011	66.42	48.64	61.38	65.26
Increase	18.49	9.90	16.15	15.28
% of Increase	39%	26%	36%	31%

Note: RSP of India is as per Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and price of petrol in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal in Indian Rupee is as per IOCL's monthly Statement of RSP of neighbouring countries.