

(b) and (c) Yes. The Unani unit at Daryaganj, New Delhi is functioning without any pharmacist on Tuesdays for the last three years under an arrangement in which the pharmacist is deputed to visit the CGHS Medical Centre, Parliament House Annexe weekly on Tuesday to provide his services there in the Unani system of medicine.

(d) Action has been initiated to fill up the vacant posts of Pharmacists (Unani) under CGHS at Delhi. No Objection Certificate (NOC) has also been received from the Department of Personnel and Training in this regard.

Impact of water pollution on health

†4449. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a steep rise in water pollution is the main cause for majority of people in the country suffering from cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of people in the country who get afflicted with serious diseases and the number of people who meet an untimely death every year because of drinking polluted water; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to address this problem during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) It is estimated that there are about 11 lakh cancer cases occurring every year in India. The available evidence is not enough to conclude that steep rise in water pollution is the main cause of cancer. The total number of people affected and deaths every year because of drinking polluted water is not known since this information is not maintained centrally.

(d) Rural water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary provision of Rs.11,000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2013-14. Up to 67% of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country.

Opening of Ashok Paper Mill

4450. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal for opening of the Ashok Paper Mill in Jogigopa, Assam; and

(b) whether the said Paper Mill will start functioning as a production unit in near future?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) commissioned Techno Economic Study of Ashok Paper Mill, Assam (APM) through renowned consultants, M/s. Sandwell India Consulting Engineers Private Limited, Mumbai and based on the same, a Greenfield Project of 2,00,000 tonnes/annum capacity for manufacture of writing-printing paper with an envisaged investment of Rs. 2476 crore was formulated. In this regard, efforts have been made to obtain various statutory clearances, firm up availability of land, raw materials, finances etc. to expedite re-opening of the Mill.

Battery run auto-rickshaws

4451. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is going to introduce Quadricycles in metro cities;

(b) whether the Ministry will come forward to insist use of battery run auto-rickshaws in all the metro cities; and

(c) the details of steps taken by the Ministry to encourage solar power-operated vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No Sir.