

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No request from the State Government has been received for holding the Health Mela, so far, in the current year.

(c) As per existing guidelines a grant of Rs. 8.00 lakh is given to meet the expenditure on logistical arrangements, medicines and publicity etc. There is a budgetary provision of Rs. 2.7 crore in the current year.

Pending bills of senior citizens

138. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped direct purchase from local chemists; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to ensure that pending bills of senior citizens are settled at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the Authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions.

In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

(b) The reimbursement of bills of senior citizens (CGHS pensioner cardholders) who have been permitted to purchase drug items from open market has been delegated by the Government to the respective Additional Directors/Joint Directors of CGHS for expediting the payment to the pensioners so that they are not inconvenienced.

Free Health Insurance

139. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a free health insurance cover for those who undergo family planning;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether the proposed insurance cover is in place of the other incentives that are now being given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages formulation of Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan as a motivational measure for wider adoption of the small family norm by couples below the poverty line. Various options are under examination in consultation with the Department of Insurance and Insurance Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

Safety measures by Konkan Railway Corporation

140. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the safety measures taken by Konkan Railway Corporation to prevent accidents;

(b) if safety measures have been taken, the reasons for the recent railway accident that took place between Vir and Karanjadi stations;

(c) whether the Railways have sanctioned additional funds for incinometres and safety meshes on cuttings above five metres; and

(d) will the Konkan Railway Corporation assure full safety to the passengers travelling by trains run by Konkan Railway Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Safety measures taken by Konkan Railway Corporation to prevent accidents include construction of Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) retaining wall, Gabion wall, Micropiling, Rock bolting, Bouldernetting etc. at cuttings and tunnels, identified vulnerable as per guidelines of geological and engineering experts, at a cost of Rs. 47.32 crores during the last five years. In addition, piloting and monsoon patrolling is also being done now in vulnerable areas. Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle who is conducting the statutory enquiry into the