

(b) whether shortage of certain essential or life saving drugs including Human Serum Albumin (HSA) have been reported in Delhi and certain parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) The Government of India brings out its National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) from time to time keeping in view the disease pattern of the country, latest scientific evidence on the efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness of medicines and the standard treatment guidelines; with the overarching objective being satisfying the priority healthcare needs of majority of the population. 376 medicines have been listed in the NLEM 2015, which was notified on 23.12.2015.

(b) and (c) Some shortage of Human Albumin Serum has been reported in the recent past from some States/UTs including Delhi. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which is mandated to monitor the availability of drugs in the country, identify shortages, if any, and take remedial measures, had discussed this issue in a meeting held on 29.3.2016 wherein it was pointed out that major pharmaceutical companies producing Human Albumin had raised the issue regarding non-availability of plasma at the prescribed rates resulting in decreased production of Human Albumin. It may be mentioned that Human Albumin is not included in the NLEM 2015 and, therefore, it is not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order 2013, which is likely to result in its increased supply.

#### **Promotion of small family norm**

1004. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state whether the Centre is considering to promote small family norm with renewed vigour in view of population growth rate, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): No. The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables couples to decide the size of their family and adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice, without any consumption.

#### **Enhancing of retirement age of doctors**

1005. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Cabinet has recently enhanced the retirement age of doctors to 65 years;