

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and since when such steps have been taken by the Government of Nepal and the Government of Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) There are no official instructions issued by Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan to its citizens' on the matter. In respect of Nepal, following Government of India's decision in November, 2016 to demonetize Indian currency notes of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 denominations, the Nepal Rastra Bank had issued a circular on 9 November, 2016 disallowing the transaction and exchange of all such demonetized notes in Nepal.

VRS by Government doctors

†2950. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors of Safdarjang Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital and Kalavati Saran Hospital had applied for Voluntary Retirement from Service (VRS);

(b) whether a departmental inquiry had been recommended against any one of them;

(c) whether the application from any individual had been disapproved;

(d) whether anyone had started working in private hospital without permission; and

(e) the action being taken against them for this kind of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (e) Requests for Voluntary Retirement from Service by doctors of Central Government Hospitals /Institutions in Delhi, *i.e.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals and Kalavati Saran Hospital, belonging to Central Health Service (CHS) are received from time-to-time by Government, on which decisions are taken as per extent rules and procedures. A case of private employment without taking prior permission of Competent Authority by a CHS doctor has come to the notice of Government, recently.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Appropriate action as per approved decision of Competent Authority is taken on each of such cases.

Illegal kidney transplant

2951. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are increasing incidents of illegal kidney transplant in private hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cases in the current year and along with the status of such cases; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to stop such crimes in the private hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Public health and hospitals being State subjects, come under the purview of State Government. Whenever, instances of illegal organ trade come to the notice of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through complaints/media reports, these cases are forwarded to concerned State Governments for investigation and further action as per provisions of Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (as amended in 2011). Therefore, details of all the cases are not available centrally.

(c) Central Act named Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 (as amended in 2011) has been enacted. Further, Government of India has made Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014 thereunder for regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs and tissues for therapeutic purposes. THOTA has provisions for imprisonment upto 10 years and fine upto ₹ 1.00 crore for commercial dealings in human organs. However, the enforcement of provisions of the Act is within the orbit of the respective State Government. Under National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP), all stakeholders including private hospitals are sensitized regarding provisions of the Act and to prevent commercial dealings in human organs and criminal acts related to organ transplantation.

Expensive graduate and post-graduate medical education

2952. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the graduate and post-graduate