

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

Summary of Questions Asked

1) *Hepatitis Free Mumbai :*

Full support from Ministry of Health for Hepatitis 'B' Free Mumbai Campaign. Got special grant for city of Mumbai. Additional project being implemented through Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Free vaccinations for children up to the age of one year.

Our MP has not only successfully implemented Hepatitis 'B' Free Mumbai Project but also did follow up of Hepatitis 'B' India Project of Health Ministry.

2) *HIV AIDS in Mumbai :*

Highlighting the situation of HIV-AIDS in Mumbai. Getting more sanction through NACO for city of Mumbai. Sanction and support for Blood Bank, Mother to Child Treatment, etc.

3) *National Illness Fund :*

Special help for various operations for the poor people. Consistent follow up to get fund for Mumbai and Maharashtra under Government of India's National Illness Fund.

LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2408

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2000

HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from Maharashtra Government for Hepatitis B Vaccination Programme;
- (b) whether the Government have also received any such request from the other State Governments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes Sir, a request from Maharashtra Government for inclusion of Hepatitis B Vaccination in the National Immunization Programme has been received recently.
- (b)&(c) : Kerala has requested for inclusion Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme. Haryana has sent a proposal for funding of Hepatitis B vaccination in the state by UNICEF. Government of Delhi has sought donor assistance through WHO for free supply of Hepatitis B vaccine for five years.
- (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not yet taken a decision for inclusion of Hepatitis B in the Universal Immunization Programme. Hepatitis B is a relatively expensive vaccine. During the current year the Ministry's priorities are polio eradication and a significant improvement in the reach and quality of the Routine Immunization Programme in the country. However, the Ministry is at present examining a proposal for a pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B in selected districts and cities.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3355

ANSWERED ON 14.08.2000

EXEMPTION OF SALES TAX FROM HEPATITIS B VACCINES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Hepatitis-B Virus is a very infectious and dangerous virus;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, countries where Hepatitis-B vaccination is compulsory;
- (c) whether his ministry has taken up the matter of exempting Hepatitis-B vaccines from sales tax with the Ministry of Finance; and
- (d) if so, the response received from the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

ANSWER

- (a)&(b) : Hepatitis B Virus, which is a dangerous and infectious microorganism spreads through contaminated blood and blood products, unsterile needles, unsafe sex and from mother (if she is a carrier) to the unborn child. Hepatitis B is now a vaccine-preventable disease. Hepatitis B Vaccine has been included in the National Immunisation Programme of DPR Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand and Bhutan in South East Asia Region countries.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 157

ANSWERED ON 19.02.2003

PRICES OF HEPATITIS 'B' VACCINE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government are aware of fall in Hepatitis 'B' vaccine prices;
- (b) if so, the rate at which Hepatitis-'B', vaccines have been acquired for the Hepatitis 'B' Pilot Project;
- (c) whether the UNICEF is also going to acquire the above vaccine; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the vaccine prices and the grant or soft term loan involved therein?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) to (d) The Hepatitis B vaccine is being received from Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) through UNICEF and is being procured at the rate of Rs.15.36 per dose (US \$ 0.32). These vaccines are being supplied by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) as commodity assistance. The UNICEF is only assisting in procurement of this vaccine at International competitive bidding.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4666

ANSWERED ON 18.04.2001

HEPATITIS 'B' IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government propose to include Hepatitis 'B' in their immunisation programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether some underdeveloped countries have included Hepatitis-B in their immunisation programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government have made screening of hepatitis 'C' in the blood banks; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith instruction so issued in this regard?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have drawn up a Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine under the Universal Immunization Programme. This project is proposed to be conducted in slums of metropolitan cities and selected rural districts of the country.
- (c) & (d) As per World Health Organization, more than 100 countries including neighboring countries like China, Indonesia, Thailand, Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, have included Hepatitis-B Vaccine in their National Immunization Programme. Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh are considering introduction of the vaccine in their programme.
- (e) & (f) Yes, Sir. The Government have made screening of Hepatitis 'C' in the blood banks mandatory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Notification to this effect, bearing NO.GSR 40 (E), has been issued on 29th January 2001.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 522

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2001

HEPATITIS-B VACCINATION

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have finalized the Hepatitis-B Vaccination programme throughout India;
- (b) whether Bill Gate Foundation has offered grants for the project;
- (c) if so, the details of the project;
- (d) the time by which the project was planned and the reasons for the delay;
- (e) whether the Government are planning to include Hepatitis-B Vaccination in next Five Year Plan; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

(a)to(f) : The proposal for introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination in selected States and districts, on a pilot basis as a part of the Universal Immunisation Programme has been prepared. Negotiations are in progress with the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI) for funding the project. GAVI is being supported by a number of donor agencies and private foundations including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The proposal prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is awaiting clearance from Government; thereafter the Ministry will approach GAVI Board for sanctioning the project.

As regards introduction of the programme in the next Five Year Plan, the question of expanding this programme as a major national scheme in the Five Year Plan can be decided upon only after considering the experiences of implementation of the pilot project and after consultations with other concerned agencies of the Government which are required for introducing new Plan Schemes.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2601

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2001

RECOMMENDATION ON MTCT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Expert Committee appointed by NACO on Mother-to-Child-Transmission (MTCT) has submitted its report and recommendation;
- (b) if so, whether NACO and his Ministry have accepted its recommendations; and
- (c) the time by when it would be implemented?

ANSWER

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Committee the National AIDS Control Organization has completed phase 1 of the feasibility study on prevention of Mother to Child transmission using short course regimen of Antiretroviral drug AZT (Zidovudine) in 11 institutions in the country located in 5 High prevalence States namely Maharashtra(5), Tamil Nadu (3), Andhra Pradesh (1), Karnataka (1) and Manipur (1). The phase II of the feasibility study using single dose nevirapine both to HIV positive mother and baby pair has been started from 1st October, 2001.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 1709

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2001

RESEARCH ON AIDS MEDICINES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether any proposal or information is available on Ayurvedic medicines or research regarding HIV/AIDS;
- (b) whether any coordination mechanism has been developed regarding such research with Health Ministry and Pharmaceutical Industries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Department found anything unusual or special in AIDS patients in India comparing with AIDS patients outside India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

- (a) to (e) : The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 7364

ANSWERED ON 15.05.2002

PCR SYSTEM FOR HIV/AIDS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to procure the PCR system for HIV/AIDS patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have received representation from various organizations to make PCR system available in the Hospitals of State particularly in Mumbai;
- (d) if so, the decision of the Government thereto;
- (e) the benefit, HIV/AIDS patients would have due to this system; and
- (f) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. In addition to the Polymerized Chain Reaction (PCR) system already available at four centres viz. NARI Pune, NICODE Kolkata, AIIMS New Delhi and NICD Delhi, Government have decided to procure eleven more such systems for eleven centres.
- (c) Yes. Sir. Shri Kirit Somaitya, M.P. had written to HFM requesting for early procurement and supply of these systems to Mumbai.
- (d) Government is re-tendering for procurement of the eleven PCR system as none of the bids earlier received in response to first tender were found to be responsive.
- (e) This will be of limited benefit to the HIV patients as it can detect HIV infection during window period only as also in the children born to HIV infected mothers. It can also be used in doubtful case of HIV for confirmation.
- (f) It is the endeavor of the Government to expedite the procedure for procurement of the system.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4407

ANSWERED ON 22.08.2001

COST OF AIDS MEDICINE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Finance and State Governments to remove, exempt excise and sales tax on AIDS medicines;
- (c) whether the AIDS medicines can be brought under drug control system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS (antiretroviral drugs) for exempting excise and customs duty and Sales Tax.

The AIDS medicines are already covered under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2589

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2001

ASSISTANCE FROM LABOUR MINISTRY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering to take assistance from the Ministry of Labour for expansion of health services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the fields in which assistance is proposed to be sought;
- (c) whether any understanding has been arrived between the two Ministries in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which the health services would be expanded through this decision?

ANSWER

(a) No, Sir. For the present there is no firm proposal.

(b)to(d) : Does not arise.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4407

ANSWERED ON 22.08.2001

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- (a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Finance and State Governments to remove, exempt excise and sales tax on AIDS medicines;
- (c) whether the AIDS medicines can be brought under drug control system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken initiative to bring down the prices of medicines of AIDS (antiretroviral drugs) for exempting excise and customs duty and Sales Tax.

The AIDS medicines are already covered under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 6700

ANSWERED ON 09.05.2000

STRIKE BY DOCTORS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether doctors are not performing their duties seriously and going on strikes frequently;
- (b) if so, whether the patients are suffering due to their continuous strikes;
- (c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against those doctors; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

(a) There is no such report in respect of Central Health Service doctors in recent past.

(b)to (d): Does not arise.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4605

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2001

AIDS SOCIETY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) what are the guidelines for implementation and execution of HIV-AIDS Programme of Health Ministry through NACO and various authorize State Socieies;
- (b) the budget is sanctioned directly to NACO and the State Societies;
- (c) the present guidelines and status;
- (d) the budget sanctioned and implemented during the last three years to NACO and all these societies;
- (e) whether there is any evaluation, internal check system exists within the Department, within the Societies regarding implementation of such programme;
- (f) if so, details thereof;
- (g) details of the societies are just spending such amount on administrative work;
- (h) details about the expenditures, money spent by these societies of Mumbai and Maharashtra for furniture and administrative work for last three years;
- (i) the work among the societies, NACO and the Department is coordinated; and
- (j) the guidelines and system exists?

ANSWER

- (a) National AIDS Control Programme Phase II (NACP II) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme implemented in all States/UTs with effect from 1st April, 1999 through State AIDS Control Societies. The guidelines for implementation and execution of HIV/AIDS programme are in pursuance to an agreement with the World Bank and guidelines enunciated therein.
- (b)&(c): National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) is a dedicated wing of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and budgetary provisions for implementation of NACP-II is kept in the demand for grants for Department of Health. Out of this budgetary provision, NACO releases funds directly to the States/UTs State AIDS Control Societies. This is done in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the agreement with the World Bank.
- (d) The budget provisions and expenditure is as follows:

	B.E.	Expenditure
1999-2000	140.00	135.25 crores
2000-2001	145.00	179.64 crores
2001-2002	210.00	138.00 crores

- (e)&(f) : Yes, Sir. For monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the programme at the central and Societies level, several measures have been introduced namely : Behavioral Sentinel Surveillance, HIV sentinel surveillance, Computerised information system and Concurrent supervisory visits by the officers from NACO and Societies. Financial statements/expenditure of the State/UT AIDS Control Societies are audited each year by Chartered Accountants approved by Government of India.

(g)&(h) : State AIDS Control Societies are sanctioned funds based on annual action plans submitted by them and reviewed by NACO. Details of furniture and administrative work by Mumbai and Maharashtra societies:

Furniture	Administrative work	
Maharashtra		
1999-2001	2.82 lacs	82.81 lacs
2000-2001	1.50 lacs	14.06 lacs
2001-2002		73.99 lacs
Mumbai		
1999-2000	3.03 lacs	4.39 lacs
2000-2001	3.17 lacs	88.40 lacs
2001-2002		108.41 lacs

(i) & (j) : Yes, Sir.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 6240

ANSWERED ON 08.05.2002

MEDICLAIM INSURANCE FOR AYURVEDIC TREATMENT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- whether Mediclaim covers all types of allopathic and other treatment except the ayurvedic treatment;
- if so, whether the Government have received representations urging the department to clarify the policy and if needed to amend the same;
- if so, whether the Government propose to protect and support ayurvedic treatment by getting it included in Mediclaim Insurance Coverage;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) : United India Insurance Co. Ltd., Chennai and The New India Assurance Company Ltd., Mumbai have informed that the mediclaim insurance covers treatment for any allopathic, Ayurvedic treatment excluding naturopathy treatment in any hospital as indoor patient.
- (c) to (e) : Does not arise as Ayurvedic treatment is already eligible for reimbursement under Mediclaim Policy. The Mediclaim policy covers hospitalization expenses for illness or injury upon the advice of a registered qualified medical practitioner.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 633

ANSWERED ON 21.11.2001

MOTHER TO CHILD HIV/AIDS TREATMENT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Ministry of Health and NACO has taken up any study, survey regarding HIV detection in pregnant mother;
- (b) whether any new survey has been taken up in 2001;
- (c) if so, the details of the observations and recommendations of all these surveys;
- (d) whether the Government have any plan on a massive Mother-to-Child-Transmission (MTCT) Health Project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

- (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, conducts annual rounds of HIV Sentinel surveillance in identified antenatal clinics, during August to October every year to know the trend of HIV infection among pregnant women attending these clinics. During this year, the round was conducted in 170 antenatal clinics. As the round is completed on 31st October 2001, the data is being collected and will be analyzed to know the changes in the prevalence among pregnant women. A statement indicating State-wise median values of HIV infection among antenatal women during last round of HIV sentinel surveillance (2000) is enclosed.
- (d) & (e) : Government has initiated feasibility studies on prevention of mother to child transmission in 11 centres located in high HIV prevalent States namely Tamil Nadu (3), Maharashtra (5), Karnataka (1), Andhra Pradesh (1) and Manipur (1). After review of the outcome of the feasibility study, government will take appropriate decision on expansion of the programme.

Note: HIV Prevalence levels in States with 3 or more sites are median values, while in States/UTs with less than 3 sites, the values are mean values.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 795

ANSWERED ON 06.03.2002

MOTHER TO CHILD TREATMENT PROGRAMME

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government have accepted the report submitted by an Expert Group on Mother to Child Treatment Programme;
- (b) if so, the salient feature of the recommendations;
- (c) the action programme drawn up by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the AIDS societies and NGO's are also being considered by the Government for involvement in the programme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the success ratio of the programme in the country?

ANSWER

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. On the recommendation of the Expert Committee, feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission was conducted in 11 centres in five high HIV prevalence States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu from Ist April 2000 to September, 2001.
- (c) to (f) : Based on the outcome of the feasibility study, Govt. has decided to expand Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme to all six high HIV prevalence States upto the district level and in Medical Colleges all over the country in a phased manner in collaboration with State AIDS Control Societies and NGOS.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5603

ANSWERED ON 29.08.2001

NACO/AIDS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether NACO and its Mumbai Branch is participating in AIDS Free Mumbai Campaign;
- (b) whether mother to child HIV treatment was implemented in Mumbai;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Department are likely to extend such treatment to all Government Hospitals in Mumbai;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Department is conducting any recent survey of HIV positive mother in Mumbai;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) : Yes, Sir. A feasibility study on prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV infection by administering short course AZT (Zidovudine) therapy was initiated from March-April 2000 in 3 centres in Mumbai, namely, Sir J.J. Hospital, KEM Hospital and B.Y.L. Nair Hospital, Mumbai.

A total of 13561 pregnant women were counseled of which 477 were found to be positive. 12 new born were tested to be HIV positive at 48 hrs. and 8 at 2 months till the month of March, 2001.

The Government is planning to initiate Nevirapine single dose administration feasibility study to both mother and new born for a short period of 6 months in order to assess its advantages over Zidovudine prophylaxis in prevention of mother to child transmission before extending such intervention to other hospitals in Mumbai.

(f)&(g) : The annual Sentinel Surveillance is conducted during month of August to October each year to detect the prevalence of HIV. The sentinel sites for antenatal clinics in Mumbai and the results are annexed.

(h) Government of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme with the following key components.

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.

- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors. HIV Sentinel sites in Antenatal clinics for round 2000 in Mumbai

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4727

ANSWERED ON 18.04.2001

HIV

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- whether the Government are aware that HIV infection has reached epidemic proportions in the country;
- if so, whether newly married women reporting HIV positive during anti-natal (during pregnancy) are rising;
- if so, whether the Government propose to conduct HIV tests compulsory before marriage to restrict HIV infection; and
- if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

- Yes, Sir.
- to (d) : No, Sir. The Government does not propose to conduct mandatory HIV test before marriage.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5716

ANSWERED ON 25.04.2001

IRREGULARITIES IN MEDICAL COLLEGES SEATS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a Union Government quota of seats in medical colleges in the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the names of such colleges and number of such seats, State-wise, college-wise;
- (c) the eligibility of criteria fixed for admission for these seats;
- (d) whether it is a fact that inspite of clear cut guidelines by the Union Government to the States for filling up these seats, some irregularities have been committed by various States;
- (e) if so, number of such cases reported during the last three years from Maharashtra; and
- (f) the action taken/being taken for not adhering to the criteria for filling up the seats in medical colleges?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the States including Maharashtra and some medical institutions are voluntary contributing few of the MBBS seats in their medical colleges to Central Pool maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on an year to year basis.
- (b) Names of such colleges State-wise and number of seats reserved for Central Pool nominees in the Academic Session 200-2001 are given in the Statement at Annexure-I.
- (c) Eligibility criteria given at Annexure-2 and Annexure-3.
- (d) No such case has been brought to the notice of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.
- (f) Does not arise.

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT QUOTA OF SEATS FOR MBBS COURSE:

- 1) Students belonging to States/Union Territories with no Medical/Dental College.
- 2) Wards of Defence Personnel.
- 3) Children of para-military personnel serving in CRPF/BSF etc.
- 4) Children of personnel serving in Cabinet Secretariat(SSB/R&AW/SSF).
- 5) Children of Indian staff serving in Indian Missions Abroad.
- 6) Self-financing foreign students to be nominated by M/o External Affairs for meeting diplomatic/ bilateral commitments.
- 7) Tibetan Refugees.
- 8) National Bravery Award Winning Children.

- 9) In addition to the category of students mentioned above, few MBBS seats are also allotted to Jammu & Kashmir on an adhoc basis due to the disturbed conditions in the state for allotment to students who have been affected by terrorism.

The eligibility conditions to be fulfilled by the candidates for admission against the seats reserved for the Government of India and the guidelines to be followed while making selection of candidates are contained in the M/O Health and Family Welfare letter No. U.14014/84/86-ME(UG) dated 9.12.1986.

P.P. CHAUHAN - JOINT SECRETARY
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare , INDIA
Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi- 110011
Dated the 9th December, 1986

No.U.14014/84/86-ME(UG)

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, we have been allocating MBBS/BDS seats to your State/union Territory for the Selection and nomination of eligible candidates, some instances have, however come to our notice where some of the allottee agencies have not followed the relevant instructions issued by the Government of India while selecting and nominating candidates against the seats allotted by us.

2. It is once again reiterated that only the children of
- (i) permanent resident of the State/UT concerned,
 - (ii) the employees of the State/UT Government concerned;
 - (iii) the employees of the Central/ other State/UT Government on deputation to the State/UT concerned; and
 - (iv) the employees of the Central/other State/UT Government posted in and having their headquarters within the State/UT concerned; will be eligible.
3. The children of Central/State/UT Government employees, aforementioned, should be treated at par with the local resident. The sole criteria for selection will be the academic merit of the candidates, subject to any special orders issued with the concurrence of the Government of India.
4. 22 « % of the seats allotted to each State/UT concerned will be reserved for students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of that State/UT. The break-up of this reservation will be as follows:-
- (a) a district reservation of 15% for Scheduled Castes and 7 « % of Scheduled Tribes.
 - (b) the reservation as mentioned in sub-para (a) above, can be interchanges. Thus, if a sufficient number of candidates are not available to fill up seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes, they may be filled up by suitable candidates from Scheduled Castes land vice-versa; and
 - (c) if the number of available Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe qualified candidates is less than 22 «% of the seats; the balance can be given to non-scheduled caste and scheduled Tribe candidates.
5. Only those candidates will be eligible for admission against the seats reserved for the Government of India who have secured at least 50% (40% in the case of candidates belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes or as amended by the Medical Council of India from time to time) of the aggregate marks in English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology in the qualifying examination,

pre- medical/Ist year of three years degree course/Ist year of three year B.SC (Hons) course-pre-degree (Two years course/pre-University (two years course) - 10+2 under their new pattern of 10+2+3 or any other examination recognised as equivalent by the Medical Council of India). 80% weightage is to be given to the results of the eligible examinations for admission and 20% to that of matriculation or school leaving examination ; when a candidate has passed B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations, then 80% weightage is to be given to the results of the eligible examination, 10% to the results of the matriculation or school leaving and 10% on the results of the B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations.

6. It may further be noted that -
 - i. For a candidate who has passed the qualifying examination in the 2nd attempt, 2% of the marks from the total aggregate should be deducted in determining his merit; and
 - ii. Candidates who have passed the qualifying examination in more than two attempts should be normally be considered suitable for medical studies.
7. It is requested that the above criteria for the selection and nominations of candidates against the MBBS/BDS seats reserved for the Central Government should be strictly followed. The Central Committee in this Ministry will also follow this procedure.
7. I shall be grateful for a line in acknowledgment of this letter.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(P.P. CHAUHAN)

To: States/UTs without medical Colleges.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Ministry of Defence (ISSA) Board, New Delhi.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs, (Rehabilitation Division),Jaisalmer House, Man singh Road, New Delhi.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri P. Vijayaraghavan, Deputy Secretary), New Delhi.
4. Director General, Border Security Force, New Delhi.
5. Commandant, CRPF, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066 6. Director, S.S.B., East Block, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022
7. Ministry of External Affairs (Student Cell), (Shri G.P. Kapoor, Under Secretary), Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
8. Ministry of External Affairs 9Welfare Cell), (Shri J.R. Blah, Deputy Secretary), New Delhi.
9. Cabinet Secretariat (Shri R.K. Ganger, Deputy Secretary), Bikaner House Annexe, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
10. The President, Medical Council of India, Diwan-E-Galf Marg, Temple Lane, Kotla Road, New Delhi.
11. DDG(M)/Dte. GHS (MS Section), Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi

Sd/-
(P.P.CHAUHAN), JOINT SECRETARY

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 402

ANSWERED ON 17.07.2002

PHARMACISTS COLLEGES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of Degree/Diploma holder registered Pharmacists in the country during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of approved/non-approved Degree/Diploma Pharmacy colleges in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the number of Degree/Diploma Pharmacists come out every year from approved/non-approved pharmacy colleges in the country, State-wise during the above period; and
- (d) the conditions laid down in GATT for minimum requirement of qualification as a pharmacist?

ANSWER

- (a) As per information received from the PCI, the number of registered Pharmacists is given at Appendix-I.
- (b) The State-wise lists of approved Degree/Diploma Pharmacy Institutions are at Appendix-II and III respectively. The state-wise lists of Degree/Diploma Institutions, which have approached the PCI for approval and the matter is under consideration of PCI is at Appendix-IV and V.
- (c) 9391 Degree and 21,451 Diploma Pharmacists come out of approved Pharmacy Institutions every year, as per details contained in Appendix-II and III.
- (d) GATT is not concerned with services. In General Agreement on Trade in Services(GATS), there is no provision laying down the minimum requirement of qualification of Pharmacist.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4576

ANSWERED ON 18.04.2001

POST GRADUATE COURSES IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the guidelines/rules framed by Medical Council of India for medical colleges for running post graduate courses in different fields;
- (b) whether a number of medical colleges in Mumbai are running post graduate courses in different fields in violation of these rules;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and names of medical colleges running such courses;
- (d) whether MCI have inquired into this; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

- (a) The guidelines/rules framed by Medical Council of India for medical colleges for running post graduate courses are contained in the Post graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 published in the Gazette of India on 7th October, 2000.
- (b) No, Sir. The Medical Council of India has not received any complaint from any sector regarding violation of the rules of the Council for the conduct of Post graduate Medical courses in different medical colleges in Mumbai.
- (c) to (e) : Does not arise.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2457

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2001

ERADICATION OF DISEASES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the States where diseases like Filariasis, Meningitis Fever, Plague, Chickenpox and Malaria are spreading rapidly;
- (b) the details of incidents of deaths due to these diseases during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have sent any team of experts to assess the situation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds spent by each State on each programme out of the total funds allocated during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

ANSWER

(a) & (b) : Incidence of Filariasis, Meningitis Fever and Malaria and number of deaths due to these diseases, State-wise during the last 3 years is given in annexure-I.

There are no cases of Plague reported from any where in the country after 1994.

Chicken-pox is a mild viral disease and no data are available.

(c)&(d) : The situation of the vector-borne diseases is being continuously monitored by regular reports/returns. However, the Central Expert Teams are also sent to the field as and when situation warrants, so as to make on the spot assessments and suggest appropriate containment measures.

(e) Statement showing State-wise expenditure under National Anti Malaria Programmes(NAMP) for malaria and filariasis control for the last 3 years is given in Annexure-II.

There is no specific Central Scheme for Chicken-pox and Meningitis. Individual Cases are provided medical care through general Medical & Health Services in the country.

(f) Strategies adopted for control of these diseases are:-

Malaria:

- Early case detection and prompt treatment
- Selective vector control
- Promotion of personal protection methods
- Early detection and containment of epidemics
- Information, Education and Communication towards personal prevention and community participation
- Institutional and Management Capacity Building, Trained Manpower Development and efficient Management
- Information system(MIS)

- Issuance of advance warning to States/UTs suggesting all the preventive and control measures.

Filaria:

- recurrent anti-larval measures;
- using larvicides in the mosquito breeding places;
- anti-parasitic measures by detection of micro-filaria carrier and treatment with di-ethyl carbamazine(DEC);
- IEC activities for public awareness;
- Management of acute and chronic filariasis through referral services;
- Biological control of mosquito breeding through biological agents specially larvivorous fishes;

Further, NFCP has initiated a project in 1997 with single dose annual mass drug therapy in 13 identified districts of 7 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5203

ANSWERED ON 28.08.2001

GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS AND FOODGRAINS

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether certain genetically modified varieties of plants and foodgrains have been developed by the Indian Scientists; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

- (a) & b) Yes Sir, Indian scientists at several National Institutions/ Universities are working on development of Genetically Modified Plants/ Foodgrains. The work is at various developmental stages. Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry; Bose Institute, Kolkatta; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore; Delhi University South Campus, New Delhi; Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; ICAR Sub-station, Shillong; Central Potato Research Institute, Simla; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad are some of the institutions involved in development of transgenic crops. Work has progressed with important research leads in tobacco, rice, mustard/ rape seed, potato, brinjal, tomato, cauliflower and pulses. These crops are expected to have improved agricultural productivity or/and enhanced nutritional quality. Although none of the Genetically Modified Plants/ Foodgrains have come to a stage of introduction into commercial agriculture, the work in potato, rape seed, pigeon pea and brinjal is in advanced stage. Transgenic potato with enhanced protein quality, quantity and increase in yield is under field evaluation.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5816

ANSWERED ON 25.04.2001

SMALL POX

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether India was declared small pox free by the International Commission for Assessment of Small Pox eradication in April, 1977;
- (b) if so, the number of cases of small pox reported since then;
- (c) whether some cases of small pox were reported from some States recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken or being taken so far by Government to control the small pox;
- (f) whether any fresh certificate from the International Agency in this regard is required again; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) to (g) : India's last case of Small Pox occurred on 24th May, 1975. As, no case of Small Pox has been reported since then, fresh certificate from the International Agency in this regard is not required.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3404

ANSWERED ON 11.12.2002

OVARY TRANSPLANTATION

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether Indian doctors have successfully conducted Ovary transplantation operation which is unique and first of its kind in India and also in the World;
- (b) if so, the details about operation and research conducted in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have recognized the research and achievement therefrom;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

- (a) to (e) : It has been reported to the Government that a doctor from Mumbai has performed one operation of Ovary transplantation in a patient of Turner's Syndrome. The request received to give recognition to the procedure performed by the doctor was put before the subject experts who opined that additional information is required for examination of the case.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4634

ANSWERED ON 18.12.2002

DOHA DECLARATION ON LIFE SAVING AND AIDS MEDICINES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken up the follow up action on Doha Declaration by giving relaxation to life saving and AIDS medicines from patents TRIPS provision;
- (b) whether after the implementation of TRIPS/WTO Act life saving drugs, HIV/AIDS medicines will become very costlier;
- (c) whether the department has taken cognizance of starting product patent instead of process patent;
- (d) whether various NGOs, patients, medical professionals, MPs have urged the Government to take up this issue with the concerned authorities;
- (e) whether any coordinated efforts were made by Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, details of steps taken by Government on the matter?

ANSWER

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4634 for reply on 18-12-2002

The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement on Public Health affirms that the TRIPS agreement can and should be interpreted in a manner so as to protect public health and promote access to medicines for all. The Declaration recognizes that affordability and availability of medicines is a universal right. The Ministers agreed that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health.

The patent Act in India has certain safeguards such as compulsory licenses and parallel imports, which can be used to protect public health, in case such an exigency arises. The Doha Declaration clarifies that Governments have freedom to determine the grounds for grant of compulsory licenses. The Declaration also clarifies that each member has the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme emergency for issuing compulsory licenses on an expeditious basis.

The Declaration would allow a more flexible interpretation of the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement and allow the Government of India to use flexibilities available within the Agreement relating to compulsory licensing and parallel import in order to protect public health. The Indian pharmaceutical industry could also benefit in catering to the demands of such markets outside the country where the governments undertake measures like compulsory licensing and parallel import.

At present, India is following the process patent system for pharmaceuticals, and that question of a more liberal use of safeguards will be more relevant under the product patent system. There also appears to be no provision in the Doha Declaration for exempting any category of medicines from the provisions of TRIPS.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4750

ANSWERED ON 25.04.2000

BLOOD BANKS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the blood banks in several hospitals and the Indian Red Cross Society are disposing off over 100 units of blood as waste due to their expiry date for use;
- (b) if so, the quantum of such blood units disposed off during each of the last three years, hospital-wise;
- (c) the reasons for not using the blood before the expiry date;
- (d) the total units of blood collected by IRCS every year against the total requirement; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to check this wastage of blood?

ANSWER

(a),(b)&(c): No, Sir. Most blood banks in the country, including Indian Red Cross Society utilise blood/blood components within the expiry date. However, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has reported following units of blood disposed off during the last three years:

1997	:	70 expired out of 23,405 units
1998	:	79 expired out of 23,308 units
1999	:	42 expired out of 21,203 units

The reasons for not utilising blood units before the expiry date is mainly due to availability of some blood units of a specific blood group in excess of the demand at that particular period of time.

- (d) Total units collected by Indian Red Cross Society is 40,000 units a year, approximately against a requirement of 3.5 lakh units (approx) for entire Delhi.
- (e) The steps being taken by the Government to check this wastage are:
 - (i) Development of linkages between different blood banks in a city to avoid this type of wastage.
 - (ii) Strengthening and modernisation of blood banks in all districts of the country.
 - (iii) Establishment of more Blood Component Separation Units for the rational use of blood.
 - (iv) Comprehensive training programme of medical and professionals on the rational use of blood.
 - (v) Intensive education programme Afor recruitment of voluntary blood donors.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5536

ANSWERED ON 02.05.2000

BLOOD TESTING FACILITIES

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether reliable and safe blood supply is still out of reach for the general public in the country;
- (b) if so, whether equipments available with the laboratories to perform full test on the donated blood have failed in achieving the satisfactory results;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the blood transfusion facilities are inadequate and sub-standard against the heavy demand of blood;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether according to the WHO Report the dissemination of various diseases like AIDS is due to untested blood transfusion; (g) if so, the position of the country in this regard at present; and (h) the corrective steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

ANSWER

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b)&(c) : Does not arise.
- (d) The blood transfusion facilities in the country are adequate to process and test the volumes of blood that are collected by these services.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) The WHO report on transfusion transmissible infection describes the global situation of HIV transmission and is not specific to India.
- (g)&(h) : It is estimated that with the establishment of HIV testing facilities countrywide, the proportion of HIV infections due to infected blood has fallen to less than 5% of the total infections. All efforts are being taken to ensure that universal screening of blood units for HIV infection will reduce blood related transmission of HIV to the minimum.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 5444

ANSWERED ON 29.08.2001

BAN ON DRUGS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the names of the drugs banned in the country and abroad;
- (b) whether the said drugs are freely available in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (d) whether certain banned drugs are also being prescribed for medical purpose in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

- (a) A list of the drugs banned by the Government of India under Section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is annexed. There is no uniform policy followed internationally for banning of drugs. Each country prohibits specific drug formulations after taking into consideration their usage and the benefit/risk ratio in the context of the needs of the country.
- (b) & (c) : Government have received no such reports regarding the above mentioned drugs. It is an offence under the said Act to market/sell prohibited drugs, which is punishable with imprisonment.
- (d) and (e) : Question does not arise.

Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5444 for 29.08.2001.

UPTO DATE LIST OF DRUGS PROHIBITED FOR MANUFACTURE AND SALE THROUGH GAZETTE NOTIFICATION GSR 578(E) DATED 23.07.83 AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

(Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary part II, Section 3 Sub Section (I), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department of Health Notification)

New Delhi, dated 23/7/83

G.S.R. 578(E) :- Whereas the Central Government is satisfied that the use of the drugs specified in the Table below is likely to involve risk to human being or the said drugs do not have the therapeutic value claimed or purported to be claimed for them or contain ingredients and in such quantities for which there is no therapeutic justification and it is necessary and expedient in the public interest so to do :

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 3385

ANSWERED ON 06.08.2002

DEVELOPMENT OF HIV/AIDS VACCINES

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the pilot project to develop HIV/AIDS Vaccines has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the institutions and departments in India involved in the research on HIV/AIDS;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether NARI has achieved some success in this regard; and
- (f) the details about the efforts, action plan, finance for the research on HIV/AIDS medicines/vaccines?

ANSWER

(a) to (d) : Under a National Jai Vigyan Science and Technology Mission, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched a project towards development of candidate DNA/ recombinant vaccines for HIV-I Subtype 'C', the most prevalent type in the country. The gene (DNA) sequences of the candidate vaccine have yielded encouraging results in small experimental animals. These are being evaluated in the non-human primates. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; three Institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research, i.e. National AIDS Research Institute, National Institute of Virology, Pune; National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore are implementing these projects. Also, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, National Institute of Immunology and National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi; Central Jalma Institute for Leprosy, Agra; Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; National Centre for Cell Science, National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) and National Institute of Virology, Pune; Christian Medical College, Vellore; Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai; National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad; Institute of Immunohematology and Institute for Research in Reproduction, Mumbai are associated to work on different aspect of HIV infection. Ministries of Science & Technology and Health & Family Welfare are supporting research in HIV/AIDS.

(e) NARI, Pune has identified early sero-converters and amplified genes from them. Using vaccinia vectors, the animal experimentation has been planned. A Viral Repository supported by DBT with more than 90 fully characterised HIV isolates is functional and catering to the needs of the scientists.

NARI is also collaborating with NICED, Kolkata and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) towards identification of suitable vaccine strains with the intramural funding from Indian Council of Medical Research; this will be also funded by IAVI. The work is under progress to insert six HIV genes in a vector.

(f) The research on HIV/AIDS would continue to get support from the government. The promising candidate vaccines will be further evaluated in human volunteers after mandatory clearance from the Drugs Controller General of India. Under the INDO-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), research and development for HIV/AIDS vaccines is a high priority. Research towards identification of anti-HIV compounds/medicines, has also been initiated at some of the research centres in the country. Two low cost, highly sensitive and specific diagnostic kits developed through DBT support have been commercialized.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 2349

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2001

SCIENTIFIC MANPOWER

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) the present scientific manpower in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that scientific manpower in India is much lower than the other countries in the World; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken to increase scientific manpower in the country ?

ANSWER

(a), (b) & (c) According to an estimate made by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), the country's stock of Scientific and Technical (S&T) manpower at the beginning of 1999 was 7.2 million. International comparison of S&T manpower has limitations as the member countries of UNESCO adopt their own definitions, classifications of S&T personnel while providing data to UNESCO and also the years of reference of data are not the same for different countries. These limitations make the international comparison unrealistic. Government have initiated several steps for strengthening S&T manpower in the country such as - increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in Five Year Plans, creation of new scientific departments/organisations, setting up of more centres of excellence/advanced studies in universities and academic institutions, S&T based training for entrepreneurial development, manpower development training/re-training programmes through Associateships/ Fellowships, summer schools, fast track proposals for young scientists, BOYSCAST Fellowships for visiting international laboratories and institutions, Swarnajayanti Fellowships, Integrated Science Olympiad Programme to enable Indian students participation in international olympiad, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana to encourage students of basic sciences, engineering and medicine to take up research as career.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 6582

ANSWERED ON 09.05.2000

FORENSIC LABORATORIES

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether all the State Forensic Science Laboratories have failed in testing the samples of narcotics pushed by Pakistan in the country during the last few months;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether the SFSL has requested to provide sophisticated equipments for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

(a) to (e): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 972

ANSWERED ON 27.02.2001

LATUR OSMANABAD EARTHQUAKES

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether after the Latur-Osmanabad earthquakes the Maharashtra Government appointed a Committee named Devaskar Committee and which has recently submitted its report;
- (b) if so, whether the Maharashtra Government has identified 13 districts of the State as earthquake prone;
- (c) if so, whether any expertise guidance has been provided by the Union Government to the State Government for tackling this situation in the State; and
- (d) the steps, taken so far by the Union Government in consultation with the State Government to tackle the situation in future?

ANSWER

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): The State Government had requested the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), New Delhi to revise the seismic zoning map of India. The BIS has initiated the process of publishing a revised seismic zoning map of India including Maharashtra state.

Subsequent to the Latur earthquake, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) which is the nodal agency for operating the national seismological network has been in regular contact with the Maharashtra Government for the upgradation of the seismological observational network in Maharashtra. One permanent seismological observatory was set up in Latur by IMD after the Latur earthquake of 30th September, 1993. The observatory was subsequently upgraded with state-of-the-art digital equipment. Under a World Bank assisted project, five more observatories under national network in Maharashtra (Mumbai, Pune, Karad, Akola and Nagpur) have also been upgraded with state of the art equipment. More than 50 seismological observatories are currently in operation in Maharashtra by various organisations like Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute (MERI), National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). IMD works in close liaison with MERI and provides necessary technical/training support for seismic observatories/survey in the state of Maharashtra. Some observatories maintained in the state are also being proposed for integration in the national network of IMD. In addition, multi-lingual posters on various aspects of earthquakes were also published and distributed to Maharashtra and other states for public awareness.

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LOK SABHA

QUESTION NO 4588

ANSWERED ON 25.04.2000

INDO FRENCH COOPERATION

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; whether an agreement regarding creation of joint laboratories has been signed;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and the extent to which it is likely to strengthen the Indo-French ties?

ANSWER

(a)& (b) Yes, Sir. The 8th meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi on March 9-10, 2000. It was decided to develop joint programmes in the areas of Environment, Information Technology and Communication, Life Sciences and Pure Science.

(c), (d) & (e): An MOU has been signed between Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minieres (BRGM) of France and National Geo-Physical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad for setting up an Indo-French Centre for Groundwater Research (IFCGR). Another MOU has been signed between the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Institut de Recherche Pour Le Development, France for Cooperation in the field of Research and Education. A Joint Statement of Intent on the Establishment of an Indo-French Laser Research Laboratory has also been signed for setting up of an Indo-French Laser Research Laboratory in India. The setting up of these Laboratories is likely to strengthen the Indo-French Cooperation in Science and Technology

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