

(b) No application has been received under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules for approval for the new drug 'Sumatriptan'.

(c) Does not arise.

Poor Facilities in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital

3289. SHRI R. N. RAKESH:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI MANORANJAN SUR:

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

(a) whether patients are facing a lot of difficulties due to poor facilities in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi as appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 8th March, 1990 under caption 'Lohia Hospital's problem O.Ts.';

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether any action has since been taken by Government to remedy the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) to (c). A Committee has gone into all the aspects mentioned in the News Item. In the report submitted by the Committee, the short-comings in patient care in the hospital has been mainly attributed to the frequent agitations of doctors, Nurses and group 'C' and 'D' staff of the Hospital, over-crowding in the Hospital etc. Agitations were settled by the Government in consultation with the various Unions. Generally, there is no shortage of medicines, disposables and equipments. Whenever, there is a shortage of a particular medicine, efforts are

made to replenish the same by utilising the imprest money.

Blindness in Rural Areas

3290. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether blindness is a major problem in rural areas in the country;

(b) whether Union Government have taken/propose to take any steps to provide specialised eye care services particularly in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of assistance Union Government propose to give to State Governments to deal with the problem of blindness in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under the National Programme for Control of Blindness Ophthalmic Care Services are being rendered for rural and remote areas through PHCs, Central Mobile Units and the District Mobile Units. The services of voluntary organizations are also being utilised.

More specialised services to the rural population are made available through the up-graded departments of Ophthalmology at District Hospitals, Medical Colleges as well as at the Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology. In 1990-91 Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 594.15 lakhs to all States and UTs (details given in the statement below) is envisaged.