

country where the people are poor, uneducated and need them more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). In order to utilise resources available for contraception in a cost-effective manner, there is a need to curtail free distribution and lay more emphasis on social marketing of contraceptives under the national family welfare programme. Reduction in subsidy on the contraceptives sold under social marketing programme is necessary to make the programme self-sustaining in the long run.

(d) The financial implication of reduction in subsidy will depend on the quantum of reduction per unit of each variety of contraceptive and also on the quantity of such contraceptives distributed free/sold.

(e) The marketing companies involved in the social marketing programme of contraceptives have extensive infrastructure and logistics to reach even the remotest parts of the country and all such companies are being persuaded to sell contraceptives in remote rural/urban areas of the country. In addition, community based distribution is also being encouraged to make contraceptives available even in far flung areas. The areas where free distribution of contraceptives is actually needed for economic reasons or for lack of outreach of social marketing community based distribution programmes, shall continue to be covered under free distribution scheme.

Financial Assistance to Medical Sub-Centres for Purchasing Medicines

4180. **SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for granting financial

assistance to States for purchasing medicines for medical sub-centres;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the said assistance for maintaining the adequate supply of medicines in medical sub-centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A grant Rs. 2000/- per annum per sub centres is provided to the States for purchase of medicines for those sub-centres covered under the Centrally sponsored Schemes.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Income Limit for Getting Benefits of Education

4181. **SHRIMOHAN RAWALE:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the upward income limit for economically backward class people for getting benefits of free education, clothes and books;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether those criteria of income limit is uniform in all parts of the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF

EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e). The School Education is primarily the concern of the State Governments who frame their own schemes to provide various incentives like free-text books, free uniforms and mid-day meals to the children of indigent families and those belonging to the SCs/STs. No information regarding the income-limits specified by the various States/UTs for determining the eligibility of a student for availing of these benefits is available. The limits if at all specified by the States Governments, are expected to vary from State to State. The Govt. of India have not laid-down any income-limit for determining the eligibility of a student for availing of these benefits.

Allocations on Health, Family Welfare and Population Programmes

4182. **SHRI SHRVAN KUMAR PATEL:**
SHRI R.SURENDER REDDY:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:

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

(a) whether the World Bank in its latest report has pointed out inadequacy of resources allocated by India on health, family welfare and population control programmes;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make good the deficiency in fund allocations for such programmes under the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). World Bank issues a large number of reports where inter country comparisons as well as Country

Specific Comments are made. In the absence of specific mention of the World Bank Report in mind, it is not possible to furnish the desired information.

Women Mountaineers

4183. **SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a woman mountaineers of the country climbed atop the Mount Everest;

(b) the number of Indian women so far climbed atop the Everest;

(c) the encouragement and national recognition given to the new women climber;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to encourage women climbers in future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Two.

(c) some proposals are under consideration.

(d) and (e). Government provides financial assistance for mountaineering expeditions. Recently Government have approved financial assistance of Rs. 3.00 lakhs for All Women Pre Everest Expenditure to Mount Mamostong Kangri. Government