

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have identified persons responsible for the lapse; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the pulse polio campaign dispensaries were generally selected on the basis of the estimation of the locational requirements by the respective State Governments. The Central Governments Health Scheme Dispensary No.70 at Faridabad was not selected by the Government of Haryana as it was not centrally located as compared to other dispensaries.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) and (b) above, the questions do not arise

[English]

HIV inspection

1501. SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) whether H.I.V. infection is spreading fast in Pune and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the total number of persons and the pregnant women among them, found H.I.V. positive and admitted in the Government Hospitals since 1994 till date in these places; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to bring this infection under control by creating the awareness about AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period starting 1994 and upto 29.2.1996, 1755 cases of HIV positive out of which 917 full blown AIDS cases have been reported from Maharashtra. out of 800 pregnant women screened during Sentinel Surveillance in the Anti-natal clinic, 2.5% pregnant women are reported to be suffering from HIV infection in the State. No separate isolation ward has been established to admit HIV positive people, but they are admitted and treated as other general patients

(c) A comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country including Maharashtra State. The Programme is being funded by World Bank soft loan of US \$ 84 million (Rs. 222.6 crores) during the period 1992-97. The

strategies to combat AIDS consist of strengthening programme management, generation of awareness amongst risk behaviour group and the general public, control of STDs, condom promotion, blood safety and rational use of blood and better facilities for surveillance, diagnosis and management of HIV/AIDS cases.

Sugar industry

1502. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the world's largest producer of sugar, having a 14% share in the global production and yet the country is neither a reliable exporter nor its sugar industry globally competitive;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in West Bengal, levy sugar distributed through the Public Distribution System has been dwindling over the years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a regulatory authority to protect the interests of the farmers and consumers; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Because of the bumper production of about 146 lakh tonnes of sugar in 1994-95 season, India has become the largest sugar producer in the world. Large scale export of sugar is a recent phenomenon and the sugar Industry is making all efforts to export sugar.

(c) and (d) The monthly levy quota of West Bengal has been recently revised upwards as per the 1991 Census from 27182 tonnes to 28934 tonnes.

(e) and (f) The interests of the farmers and consumers alike are protected by the Government itself by regulations under the Essential Commodities Act '955.

Foodgrains campaign

1503. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to save foodgrains campaign undertaken by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken to preserve foodgrains and whether any subsidy is being given to the private agencies to store these in godowns/warehouses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The progress made in regard to save foodgrains