

(b) whether most of the qualified dental doctors are concentrated in urban areas leaving the villages practically without any modern facilities for treating dental diseases; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the shortage of dentists and to provide facilities for treatment of dental diseases in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Population wise ratio of dentists in the country is far below 1 : 30,000 the recommended dentists population ratio of the Mudaliar Committee.

(b) Yes.

(c) The State Governments (including Union Territories) have been addressed to take urgent steps to include in the State Plans, schemes for improvement of dental services to meet the urgent need for facilities to be provided for dental care at least at District and Tehsil levels so as to serve the vast rural population of our country.

**Orders for not charging from Out-Door Patients**

2800. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have urged the State Governments not to charge any patients visiting hospitals for out door treatment;

(b) if so, when the appeal was made; and

(c) the response thereon State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Increase in Cancer Incidence

2801. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cancer is increasing in India;

(b) the number of cancer patients in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken to handle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). Cancer is not a notifiable disease. The information regarding the number of cancer patients in the country is not, therefore available.

(c) Research and studies on Cancer are being carried out in a number of Institutions and Cancer Research Centres. The Indian Council of Medical Research has also conducted collaborative studies on some of the common cancers encountered in the country i.e. oral and oropharyngeal cancer, cervical cancer and cancer of breast. The main objectives of the studies on oral and oropharyngeal cancer were to find out its prevalence in different geographic areas in the country and to study the environmental factors related to this type of cancer with special reference to use of tobacco. Studies on breast and cervical cancer are in progress.

It is proposed to establish three Regional Cancer Research and Treatment Centres at New Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. Financial assistance is also given to States for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Units.

#### Prices of Ayurvedic Drugs

2802. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that prices of ayurvedic