

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The recent spurt in sugar prices is mainly due to speculative tendencies in the market because of some fall in sugar production this year. However, the concerned Central Government agencies as well the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have been requested to check smuggling of sugar, gur and khandsari, to Nepal and Bangladesh.

[English]

Induction of Ex-Army Medical Corps Doctors into Central Health Scheme C

343. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the reasons for not inducting ex-Army Medical Corps doctors into Central Health Scheme, except through a fresh entrance test conducted by UPSC for recruitment of fresh CHS doctors, despite Government's policy to ex-Army Officers in different Government Services for purposes of their re-settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): In keeping with the Government policy for the re-settlement of ex-army officers in different services, the ex-army Medical Corps doctors are allowed age—relaxation from 3 to 10 years against prescribed age limit of 30 years for recruitment to the Central Health Service through Combined Medical Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. Direct induction of Ex-Army Medical doctors is not possible as the standards for selection in Army Medical Corps and the Central Health Service through Union Public Service Commission are different and the Central Health Service Rules, which are statutory Rules, do not contain any provision for direct induction of Ex-Army Medical Corps personnel in the

Central Health service.

AIDS Test Carried out by AIDS Kits from West Germany

344. **CHOUHARY KHURSHID AHMED:**
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:
SHRI HET RAM:

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

(a) whether a West German firm sold test kits at a discount to detect AIDS which have been re-called by the West German Drug Control Authority from the European market;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating how these defective AIDS kits were procured by India and the amount involved in this;

(c) the estimated number of tests carried out with the defective kits since their procurement; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b). Three batches of AIDS detecting kits manufactured by a German firm—Behring were found defective and had been withdrawn from the European market.

45 kits belonging to these batches had been imported in India by M/s. Hoechst (India) Ltd., Bombay. The firm sold these kits in the market after carrying only visual checks and without informing that there might be any problem with the kits.

(c) The number of tests carried out with

these kits have not been reported to this Ministry.

(d) Licence granted to M/s Hoechst India (Ltd.) Bombay for import of AIDS testing kits under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules has been cancelled. The following instructions have been issued to all the port officers:-

- (i) To check if the importers of AIDS kits possess certificate issued by the manufacturing firm stating that the kits are of standard quality and have been duly tested by them.
- (ii) Importing firm should submit a certificate issued by the Drugs Controller or equivalent authority of the importing country stating that the manufacturer of the AIDS kits is a registered or an approved manufacture in that country.

Rise in Building material in Delhi

345. CHOUDHARY KHURSHID AHMED:
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOP-

MENT be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative percentage of rise in the cost of building materials during the last three years (year-wise) till date in Delhi;

(b) the average percentage of rise in the cost of Government and private buildings as a result thereof and its overall impact on the construction activity in the city;

(c) to what extent the rise in the cost of the building material has contributed to the abnormal rise in the rents of commercial and residential buildings in Delhi; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to contain the prices of the building materials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Buildings Organisation have been compiling the index numbers of residential building cost in Delhi since 1954 with the year 1950 as base. The indices are computed separately for building materials and wages of labour. A Table showing the indices of building materials, labour and cost over the last three years is given below:

(Base 1950-100)

Year	Index for Building materials (weight 73.00)	Index for building labour (Weight 27.00)	Building cost index No. (Weight 100.00)
1986	1164.09	1023.11	1126.03
1987	1193.04	1279.71	1216.44
1988	1327.66	1376.69	1340.90
March, 1989	1440.23	1376.69	1423.07