

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise the cultivation of this plant?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) Survey of Medicinal Plants and Collection Unit, Ooty under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy during a survey tour in 1982-83 was able to locate and collect *Cineraria Maritima*, supposed to be an exotic plant in the Nilgiri region of Tamil Nadu.

(b) No specific scheme has been drawn up by the Council to popularise cultivation of this plant.

[*Translation*]

News Item Captioned "Shishyon Mein Phailta Rog Thalassemia"

2592. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn in the news item appearing in the *Dainik Hindustan* dated 20 January, 1990 under caption "Shishyon Mein Phailta Rog Thalassemia":

(b) if so, the number of children in the country affected by this disease; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cure them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) and (b). Yes, the Government has seen the news item. A study was carried by Indian Council of Medical Research on Thalassaemic gene frequency in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. It was found that the incidence of beta-thalassaemia trait (heterozygous) was 2.7% in Bombay, 5.5%

in Delhi and 10.4% in Calcutta. This shows that the thalassaemic gene frequency varies in different population and regions. Overall estimates of Thalassaemic gene frequency in India cannot be made precisely but would be in the range of 2-5%. The estimate that about 5000 children with thalassaemia major (homozygous beta-thalassaemia) are born every year, could be realistic.

(c) The NDMC Hospital in association with the Indian Red Cross Society is providing blood transfusion facility for these patients, for adequate therapy, following measures are necessary:

- (i) Regular blood transfusion under specialists, trained for management of thalassaemia and attached to hospitals where diagnostic facilities are available.
- (ii) The blood transfusion should be leukocytic-free.
- (iii) Maintain H6 at appropriate level.
- (iv) Regular chelation using a syringe pumps for removal of excess iron.

[*English*]

Storage of Rain Water for Useful Purposes

2593. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to collect and store surplus rain water for useful purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c). A large number of storage schemes on the river in India—small and large, are in different phases of construction by the States and will be progressively completed according to the availability of Plan funds.

Suggestion for Linking the Ganga and Cauvery

2594. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the linking of the Ganga with the Cauvery through a vast canal as proposed by the late Shri K.L. Rao has been given up altogether;

(b) if so, the reasons for rejecting this suggestions; and

(c) if not, the time by which the project is likely to be taken up for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The scheme formulated by Dr. K.L. Rao required large blocks of power for lifting water and the cost was also found to be prohibitive. Therefore, the proposal was not pursued further. As an alternative, the Government have prepared a national perspective for water development, envisaging 17 river links. Studies on 5 of them are planned to be completed by end of March, 1990.

(c) Does not arise.

Facilities for patients in AIIMS

2595. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur): Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether patients coming from different parts of the country to get treatment in AIIMS, and Safdarjung hospitals in Delhi are not only ignored but also humiliated; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) No Sir, Specialised and adequate attention is given by the doctors, Nurses and other staff to all patients admitted in the various wards and also to patients reporting to the General Out Patient/Department including the Casualty out Patient Department of AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Surplus Water at Tejawala Head Works of Yamuna

2596. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any surplus water available at the Tejawala Head Works of Yamuna; and

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to supply this water for irrigation purposes to Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir; flood waters spill-over the Tajewalla weir.

(b) No, Sir; there is no such approved scheme.