

OLD Age Homes and Orphanages

SHRI SOBHANADRESWARA

RAO VAADE:

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:

6395. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes and orphanages separately functioning in the country;

(b) the number out of them opened during the current financial year;

(c) whether some of these homes are managed by voluntary organisations; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated by the Union Government to such voluntary organisations during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a). So far 34 Old Age Homes have been financed by the Government of India. The financing of Orphanages and Destitute Homes under the Centrally-Sponsored Scheme is done on the basis of sanctions made by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations concerned. The Scheme, called Children in Need of Care and Protection, has been transferred to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations with effect from 1.4.1992. Information with regard to the number of Orphanages functioning under the Scheme is being collected from the State Government and Union Territory Administrations.

(b) Out of 34 Old Age Homes, 22 have been opened during 1992-93 financial year.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The amount released by the Union Government to the voluntary organisations during 1992-93 financial year for Old Age Homes, Orphanages and Destitute Homes is Rs. 546.21 lakhs; Rs. 25.83 lakhs for Old Age Homes and Rs. 520.38 lakhs for Orphanages and Destitute Homes respectively.

[*Translation*]

Cataract Operations

6396. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) the estimated number of persons who have to undergo Glaucoma Cataract operation;

(b) the number of persons who are joining the list every year;

(c) the number of persons who are becoming blind every year due to deficiency of vitamin A; and

(d) the funds provided for prevention of blindness during 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A WHO assisted Survey (1986-89) has estimated that there are 12 million blind persons in India out of which 80.1 per cent are blind on account of cataract and 1.7 per cent due to Glaucoma.

(b) and (c) No nation-wide survey has been conducted on the annual incidence of blindness on account of Glaucoma, Cataract and vitamin A deficiency. However, as per the survey of Blindness prevalence of Vitamin A deficiency among children under 6 years is 6.01%

(d) The funds released under National programme for control of Blindness during 1991-92 and 1992-93 were Rs. 9.70 crores and Rs. 20.00 crores respectively.

[*English*]

Hydrocarbons In Barak Valley Of Assam

6397. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bark Valley of Assam is a

highly potential source of hydrocarbons; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to harness the source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) Certain areas of Bark Valley have been considered to be of good potential source of hydrocarbons. Oil has been discovered at Badarpur and Hiler fields; and gas at Adamtilla and Banaskandi fields. One block has been offered for exploration to private companies in the 5th Round of bidding.

In the Eighth Plan it is proposed to carry out 51,300 m. of exploratory drilling in Cachar (including part of Meghalaya)

Aids control

6398. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Test Plants for anti-AIDS properties" appearing in the Statesman dated January 10, 1993;

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

(c) whether any of these seven plants is already known to stimulate the immune system;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether China and Japan have already started clinical trials of their medical plants for anti-AIDS medicines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some Indian laboratories are investigating Indian medicinal plants for anti-AIDS activity.

(c) and (d) Anti-AIDS properties has been reported in a large number of plants belonging to the family of Cucurbitaceae. Some of them are commonly used vegetables such as Momordica Charantia (Kerals); Luffa acotanquala and Luffa cylindrica (Tori) and also Andrographis paniculate (Kalmegh).

(e) and (f) No information is available on the clinical trials on medicinal plants for AIDS in China and Japan.

[Translation]

Facilities To Handicapped

6399. SHRI RATILAL VARMA:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instances of misuse of the facilities being provided to the handicapped persons in the country have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the facilities meant for handicapped persons are made available only to them and are not misused?

(e) whether the World Bank have also provided