

Private practices by Homoeopathic Doctors

567. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Homoeopathic Government Doctors are indulging in private practice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No such instance has come to Govt's notice in the recent past.

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

[Translation]

Uniform Freight rate on Coal

568. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish the provision of uniform freight rate of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA)

(a) There is no Government Scheme for freight equilisation in coal transportation.

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

[English]

Exploration Programme of N.G.C.

569. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil exploration programme of ONGC for the Eighth Five Year Plan, total order of investment and estimated foreign and private investment expected in this activity including deals finalised so far;

(b) the expected impact of foreign investment and partial privatisation in this sector during the plan period;

(c) the break-up of investment proposed project-wise during the plan period; and

(d) the details of foreign and private investment finalised in this sector and proposals under pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). ONGC's 8th Plan provides an outlay of Rs. 3500 crores for exploration programmes which include Seismic Survey and Exploratory Drilling.

Four contracts for exploration for oil and gas have been finalised with private companies under the Fourth Round. The expected investment in exploration activities under these four contracts, as estimated by the companies, during the first phase of the exploration period of 2 to 3 years would be of the order to US\$ 10 million. Two ore contracts are in the pipeline.

Wastage Disposal in Hospital

570. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale pile up of wastes in the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to