

BLIND PERSONS

2568. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out the number of blind persons in rural and hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any assistance from World Federation for Blind for preventing blindness;

(d) if so, the amount received during each of the last three years; and

(e) the allocation made to each State During the above period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The NPCB-WHO Survey 1986-89 has shown that the prevalence of blindness is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. This is more evident in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

AIDS CONTROL

2569. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are National AIDS Board and National AIDS Control Organisation;

(b) if so, whether there is over-lapping in the functioning of these two organisations; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to merge these two organisations for the effective functioning of AIDS control work ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is an executive wing of the Ministry of Health. National AIDS Control Board (NACB) is a high-powered deliberative body to accord administrative approval and

financial sanctions to the plans and programmes of NACO. Since they play functionally different and distinct roles, the question of any merger does not arise.

SUPPLY OF GAS TO BOMBAY CITY

2570. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms made for selection of foreign partners for supply of gas to Bombay city;

(b) whether such norms have been followed by the Gas Authority of India Limited in selecting foreign partners; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The norms included a minimum experience of 10 years in the supply of gas in a major city, willingness to contribute to equity, experience in conversion of industrial and commercial users from liquid fuel to gas, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY

2571. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the National Health Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the State of India's Health Report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to incorporate these recommendations in the National Health Policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?