

(a) whether the Government have made an agreement with Iran, for getting Natural Gas through under sea pipeline to Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into between Government of Iran and the Government of India on 6th July, 1993. Essentially, the MOU provides for co-operation in studying/examining the feasibility of gas imports. The project for the import of gas is still at a conceptual stage, and details have not been firmed up.

#### **Aids Control**

893. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any urgent need to accelerate research and control activities on AIDS to prevent the epidemic from reaching the over-powering proportions as it is in Africa,

(b) if so the steps that have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Research on various aspects of HIV/AIDS is an on-going global activity in which India is also playing its role. Indian Council of Medical Research has established an Institute in Pune, known as National AIDS Research Institute, specifically for this purpose. Prevention and control activities have been taken up in hand by the National AIDS Control Organisation in collaboration with the

various State Govts and Union Territories. The activities comprise of strengthening programme management, generation of awareness to promote a healthy life-style and avoid risk-behaviour, prevention of blood-borne transmission of HIV, control of sexually transmitted diseases and provision for better clinical diagnosis and management of AIDS cases.

#### **Bold-Test Machines**

894. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that it is difficult for common man to get bold tested for various critical diseases in AIIMS, Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh as the machines are not available in these institutes;

(b) if so, the number of blood investigating machines required at present;

(c) whether the government propose to import these machines to save lives of common men; and

(d) if so, the time by when the machines are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The patients who receive treatment at AIIMS, New Delhi and P. G. I., Chandigarh are able to avail of facilities for all kinds of blood testing including specialised tests. These facilities are continuously being strengthened to cope with the growing load of patients and advances in technology.

(b) to (d) Qo., not arise.

#### **Link Women Cheme in Gujarat**

895. SHRI. N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: