

Relief Clinic Unit for acupuncture treatment for public in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the qualified team of doctors have been deployed for the purpose in this unit; and

(c) if not, the action taken to deploy such doctors who can effectively provide proper treatment to the patients?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is a Pain Relief Clinic Unit in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Acupuncture facility is available for last 5 years with qualified Doctors deployed for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Drugs

4211. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the places in the country where Central Drug Stores are set up;

(b) the value of the drugs purchased by these Drug Stores during the last three years,

(c) the names of the State Governments which have discontinued receiving supply of drugs from these Central Drug stores;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) The Government Medical Store Depots are set up at New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Karnal.

(b) A Statement showing value of the drugs purchased by different Government Medical Store Depots during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) to (e). The State Governments of Gujarat since 1981, of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh since 1986, of Haryana and Punjab since 1988, of Andhra Pradesh since 1992 and of Bihar since 1994 have discontinued drawing drugs from the Government Medical Store Depots. The Government Medical Store Depots supply quality medicines/drugs on competitive rates. Each and every batch is tested in the laboratories before supply is made to the indentors. However, procurement of drugs by the States is the subject of concerned States. They are at liberty to procure drugs from sources of their own choices.

STATEMENT

Value of Medicine/Equipments Proquired by Various GMSDs during 1991-92 to 1993-94

GMSDs	Year (Rs. in lakhs)		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. GMSD, Bombay	888.00	1069.00	1394 00
2. GMSD, Calcutta	1380.00	3220.00	2950.00
3. GMSD, Guwahati	1565.00	2090.00	2322 00
4. GMSD, Hyderabad	1048.00	1082.00	1095.00
5. GMSD, Karnal	751.00	411.78	357 42
6. GMSD, Madras	410.97	512.35	731 51
7. GMSD, New Delhi	2132.61	2887.87	3078 76

[Translation]

Thalaeemia

4212. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether large number of children are suffering from Thalassaemia disease in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported in each State at present, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to treat these children?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b). No definite data is available with the Government regarding the number of children afflicted with Thalassaemia. However, according the report received from Indian Council of Medical Research, it is estimated that on an average, 6000 to 8000 children are born every year with Thalassaemia in India.

(c) Thalassaemia major is mainly treated by repeated blood transfusions for correction of anaemia in these children. Repeated blood transfusions lead to iron overload which requires iron chelation to remove the excess iron from the body and thereby prevent complications due to iron overload. So far the only chelator available was Desferal injection. The infusion pump and the injections are very expensive and are being imported. To reduce the cost of treatment, Government has offered customs duty exemptions on these. Further an oral iron chelator, Defriprone has recently been introduced into the market which is expected to reduce the costs and facilities better compliance for the patients.