

expeditiously. Instructions have already been issued for implementing certain short/long term measures such as (i) reduction in warrant life; (ii) material usage control (iii) simplification of store ledgers; (iv) valuation of work-in-progress; (v) re-grouping of overhead work orders; (vi) re-classification of variable overheads; (vii) review of overhead absorption method; (viii) reduction in procurement lead time.

Further, a task force has been set up so that the remaining short term and long term measures are examined and taken up for implementation in a time bound manner.

HIV Infection

514. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research has suggested effective infection control measures for hospitals to allay patients' fears regarding accidental HIV infection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of the expert Group in Indian Council of Medical Research in the context of emerging problem of HIV infection, comprehensive guidelines for the control of Hospital acquired infections were formulated and communicated to the Health authorities of all the States/Union Territories for strict implementation.

UPSC Examinations

515. SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI C. P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the age limit for other backward classes (OBC) in the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission on the pattern of SC and ST from this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) The Government have issued orders on 25th Jan. 1995 allowing relaxation of upper age limit prescribed for direct recruitment by three years in respect of candidates belonging to other backward classes (OBC). This order is also applicable for examinations conducted by UPSC.

Panchayat Polls

516. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have been asked to hold the Panchayat polls in the States;

(b) if so, the States which are going to have elections after February, 1995;

(c) the names of the States which have assigned additional responsibilities to the Panchayats; and

(d) the nature of the responsibilities assigned to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b) To conduct panchayat polls is the responsibility of the State Government/State Election Commission. However, they were requested by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment to conduct panchayat elections at the earliest. Panchayat elections are due in Bihar, U.P., Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kerala and Gujarat and in the Union Territories. Elections to Zila Parishad/Panchayat Samiti in Karnataka are also due. Besides, elections to Zila Parishad are due in Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur. These States have informed that they are preparing for panchayat polls.

(c) and (d) It is the responsibility of the State Governments to endow adequate powers and functions to the panchayati raj institutions and in this process they will be guided by the provisions in the State Legislations.

Voluntary Organisations

517. DR. R. MALLU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grants-in-aid were provided to voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh under the Family Welfare Programme during 1992-93, 1993-94 and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the grants-in-aid have been fully utilised by the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.