

patients under the programme are adequate and effective if taken regularly for the prescribed duration.

(e) The Government has evolved a Revised Strategy for TB control wherein emphasis is on diagnosis through quality sputum microscopy and achieving 85% cure rate among sputum positive TB patients through directly observed short Course Chemotherapy.

Goitre

498. SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of goitre is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such cases are reported in Orissa; and

(d) the action taken to eradicate goitre in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA) :

(a) and (b) . The surveys conducted in the country have revealed that nearly 54 million peoples are effected by Goitre.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to control Iodine Deficiency Disorders the universal iodisation of salt is being encouraged under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP). Under this programme funds are provided to the States/UTs for the following activities.

(a) Establishment of IDD Control Cell.

(b) Publicity and Health Education.

(c) Conducting IDD Surveys/re-surveys.

(d) Establishment of IDD monitoring laboratory.

(e) Monitoring the quality of iodised salt.

DIVESTMENT FUNDS TO REHABILITATE STAFF

499. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether attending of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in daily "Business Standard" dated July 1, 1995 under caption 'divestment funds may be used to rehabilitate staff;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to utilise the divestment funds for expenditure on the schemes of rehabilitation of employees;

(c) if so, the proposed outline in this regard; and

(d) the names of the schemes being run by the Government for the rehabilitation of employees till now and the average number of employees benefited annually as a result of these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) . The disinvestment proceeds are put into the consolidated Fund of India. Utilisation of the funds are made through the process of Budget allocations which is decided on the basis of plan priorities. Budget allocations so done every year for National Renewal Fund (NRF) takes care of the requirements of rehabilitation of employees. Several schemes are in existence at the Centre, State and Unit levels for rehabilitating the employees. No date is maintained at the Central level in this regard.

[Translation]

Meningitis

500. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government is aware that Meningitis has taken the form of an epidemic in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of persons affected by this epidemic in the country during the last one year;