

Cholera and Gastro-Enterities Epidemic in Himachal Pradesh

3238. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh is in the grip of Cholera and Gastro-enterities epidemic;

(b) if so, the number of deaths due to Cholera and Gastro-enterities in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the Union Government have assured full assistance to Himachal Pradesh to fight Cholera and Gastro-enterities; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance provided to Himachal Pradesh so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Since June, 1991, a number of districts of Himachal Pradesh have been reporting out break of Gastro-Enterities and Cholera.

(b) Number of deaths due to Gastro-enterities/diarrhoea in Himachal Pradesh reported so far is 182.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Four teams from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi visited Himachal Pradesh during June—August, 91 to help the State Govt. in investigation and to suggest measures to control the outbreak.

Emergency medicines like chlorine tablets, antibiotics, Intravenous fluids

worth Rs. 20 lakhs have been provided to the State Government.

Life saving drugs worth about Rs. 10 lakhs contributed by UNICEF were also sent.

[Translation]

Factories in Muzaffarnagar

3239. SHRI N. K. BALIYAN : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of factories manufacturing fertilizers from the animal bones in Khatauli, Muzaffar-Nagar;

(b) whether these factories are located in the middle of residential areas;

(c) if so, whether these factories are polluting air in the entire city;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether some directives have been issued to the State Government to shift these factories from these areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS : (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) to (c) In Khatauli, Muzaffarnagar, there are 4 units engaged in the production of fertilizers from bones. These units are located near the populated area of the city. The surrounding areas of the factories are affected mainly due to foul odour.

(d) The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board has issued closure notice under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, to M/s. Kohinoor Bone Mill, M/s. Kamal Manure Mill and M/s. Capital Bone Mill, closure notice was already issued to M/s. Khatauli Manure Mill. However, this was stayed by the Honourable High Court, Allahabad. Action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has also been initiated.

(e) and (f) M/s. Khatauli Manure Mill, the most polluting unit of these has already applied for 'No Objection Certificate' from the pollution angle to shift the existing unit from Khatauli. The application is under active consideration and the unit has been asked to submit a land use certificate from the Competent Authority.

World Bank Assistance for Housing

3240. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take assistance from World Bank for solving the housing problem of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) There are no proposals under the consideration of the Government.

Blind Patients

3241. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of blind persons in the country at present;

(b) the number out of them who are blind by birth;

(c) the efforts made by Government so far to eradicate blindness;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to set up more eye-hospitals in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) As per the recent All India Survey conducted by Dr. R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS (1986—89), the prevalence rate of both eye blind persons is 1.49%. Based on 1989 estimated population of 800 million, the number of both eye blind persons is 11.92 million.

(b) It has not been possible so far to evaluate the number of blinds by birth in the country. However, the blindness in the age group of 0—6 years due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency is 9.84% of total blindness.

(c) The Government of India launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in the year 1976 which is a ongoing programme in