

Death of Infants due to Oral Poliomyelitis

93. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government, that four infants who were administered Triple Antigen and oral poliomyelitis vaccine at the Government run Cama and Albless Hospital at Bombay died in the month of April this year ;

(b) whether such vaccines were also supplied to other parts of India ;

(c) the details about the supplier of this vaccine ; and

(d) whether any investigation or enquiry has been made in this connection and if so, what action has been taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The triple antigen was manufactured and Polio Vaccine ampouled by the Haffkine Bio-pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay (HBPCL) which is an undertaking of the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra have conducted an enquiry and basing on the findings of the inquiry, instructions have been issued to store and administer the vaccines properly.

'Sports AID' Programme for African Countries

94. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken in India to support "Sports Aid and the race against time Programme" to express its solidarity with the people of scarcity hit African countries ; and

(b) the response to the Prime Minister's call to make "Sports Aid", a national event ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) In response to the call from the UNICEF to express solidarity with the drought stricken African countries and raising of funds for help to African children, the Government took the following steps to assist UNICEF organise 'Sports Aid' and 'Race Against Time' programmes in India :—

(i) Issuing an appeal from the Prime Minister to the people of India to give the cause their full backing ;

(ii) Organising with the involvement of Sports Authority of India a number of sporting events between May 17-25, 1986 to coincide with the sport Aid week and Sun-rise Ten Kilometre races/torch light races on the 25th May, 1986, in about 20 cities in the country ;

(iii) Encouraging sports events like a football match in Calcutta and Endurance Swimming in Delhi in the context of Sport Aid.

(b) The Prime Minister's appeal received a massive and spontaneous response from all over the country and as a result 'Sport Aid' became a national effort. Contributions to the tune of Rs. 45 lakhs through 'Sports Aid' have been received already by the Sports Authority of India on behalf of UNICEF.

Use of Homoeopathic Medicines

95. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey about the number of people who use homoeopathic medicines in the country ;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to ensure that homoeopathic medicines are standardised and available to public at reasonable prices ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) No specific survey as such has been conducted by the Government about number of people who use homoeopathic medicines in the country.

(b) and (c). Yes. For the standardisation of homoeopathic medicines, the Government of India has appointed a Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee which has already brought out 4 volumes of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India covering 492 commonly known homoeopathic drugs.

The Government of India have also established a Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for testing of homoeopathic drugs. Most of the manufacturing units are in the small scale sector and indirect price stability is being effected by the industry by competitiveness in marketing their products.

(d) Does not arise.

Check on AIDS Infected foreign Tourists

96. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any negligence in permitting AIDS-infected tourists to enter India ;

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent undesirable tourists from coming to India ; and

(c) other measures taken to isolate AIDS-both preventive and treatment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b). There is no procedure for screening tourists for AIDS virus infection. Hence the question of any negligence does not arise. Even the World Health Organisation, which is seriously concerned with this problem, does not recommend such a measure.

(c) Surveillance machinery has been expanded and augmented with establishment of 11 diagnostic centres for detection of

AIDS. In addition, 4 referral centres have also been established where higher level diagnostic facilities for AIDS are available.

There is no specific treatment for AIDS cases so far. At present the treatment of AIDS patients consists of specific treatment for varieties of opportunistic diseases and malignancies involved in each individual case.

However under the AIDS control, number of measures are being taken to control AIDS and prevent its further spread. These are :—

(a) restrictions have been imposed for import of blood and blood products without AIDS clearance certificate,

(b) All the State health authorities/hospitals/STD clinics have been alerted to look for AIDS.

(c) All the blood banks have been instructed to screen the professional blood donors.

(d) All the State health authorities have been advised to ensure strict sterilization practices in hospitals and clinics and to use pre-sterilised disposable syringes and needles as far as possible.

(e) Guidelines have been sent to all the State health authorities for health care personnel.

(f) All the mass media channels have been involved in educating the people on AIDS, its nature, transmission and prevention.

Import and Manufacture of Electric and Diesel Engines

97. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units which are manufacturing electric and diesel engines in the country and the annual demand and production of these engines in each unit ;