- (i) Drug
- (ii) Rajnandgaon
- (iii) Raipur
- (iv) Bilaspur

[Translation]

Causes of mental retardation

1616. DR. C. S. VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) Government's interpretation of mental retardation and whether Government have ever reviewed it;
- (b) what are the main causes of mental retardation; and
- (c) the steps tal en to solve this problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARF (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a), (b) & (c) As per the World Health Organisation definition, mental retardation is due to arrested or incomplete growth mind below the age of 18 due to genetic or acquired reasons. Dr. B. Sankaran, the then Director General of Health Services had set up a group of experts in various discipline in 1979 which conducted a survey in the field of mentally handicapped in India. The main programme for solving the problems of mentally retarded persons aims at their rehabilitation for which the Ministry of Welfare is taking a number of steps,