

the drug trial for fairly long period, so that the possible inaccuracies in the assessment of potentiality of drug/recipe may be avoided. Drop out has been faced due to various reasons like family shifting the residence, husband getting sterilised, lethargy in collecting the drug regularly, the subject desiring to have child, adopting other methods of contraception, etc. However, efforts are being made wherever possible to reduce the drop out cases by constant persuasion.

2. The following drugs/recipes are studied/under study at clinical level :

*Vidangadivoga (Vidanga, Japankusum & Hingu)*

This has been studied in 23 cases for 10 cycles and 3 for 30 cycles. Since the drop out was much more in these series because of side effects like gastric irritation etc., the study could not be continued.

*Talisadivoga (Taleesa and Gairika).*

370 subjects were administered this recipe. It was noted that during the trial many of the subjects who were given the drug conceived or other complaints like excessive bleeding etc. were noticed. Hence the study was discontinued.

*K Capsule (Vidanga)*

226 subjects received this recipe. 78 cases are under active follow up; of them 19 subjects had taken the drug for more than 30 cycles and 27 subjects are in the range of 20—30 cycles. Since the drug has shown encouraging lead extensive trial will be undertaken.

*AYUSH AC-1 (Vidanga & Japankusum) :*

This has been given to 250 subjects and the follow up is in progress in 130 cases. 5 cases completed more than 20 cycles and remaining are below 20 cycles.

*AYUSH AC-4 (Ashoka, Laksha, Kramuka & Vidanga) :*

The Council has brought out this new recipe AYUSH AC-4 based on the study conducted on individual drugs. 256 subjects are given this drug and the follow up of 36 cycles for each patient is in progress. At present many of the subjects are in the follow up of 1—5 cycles.

3. Chemico-pharmacological screenig has been done on the following drugs:—

- (i) *Abrus precatorius (Ganja) :*
- (ii) *Embelia ribes (Vidanga) :*
- (iii) *AYUSH—7 (Talesapatra & Gairika) :*

(iv) *AYUSH—47 : (Ashoka, Laksha, Kramukha, gold sugar) :*

(v) *Vidangadivoga (Vidanga, Japankusum & Hingu) :*

(vi) *AYUSH AC—2 (Ashoka, Laksha & Kramuka) :*

(vii) *Plumbago rosea :*

(viii) *Gossypium herbaceum :*

(ix) *Nerium indicum :*

(x) *Dacus carota (seeds) :*

(xi) *Hibiscus rosasansensis :*

(xii) *Vicoa indica.*

### Family Planning

7674. Prof. P.G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to accelerate the pace and projects of Family Planning in the whole country;

(b) if so, how; and

(c) if not, why not ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI LAY) : (a) and (b). The Government of India have taken various steps to boost up the Family Welfare Programme. The Programme is being pursued vigorously with particular attention to the welfare aspect and to the voluntary acceptance of contraceptive practices through more intensified efforts in the direction of education and persuasion of the people. Educational and motivational activities have been intensified by organising large number of orientation training camps throughout the country. In rural areas, special attention is being given to the improvement of maternity services through training of traditional birth attendants (Dais) who are provided with better equipment after training. The Community Health Worker's Scheme which is a part of the effort to reach primary health care to the people in the remotest areas is also contributing the better implementation of the programme in the rural areas. The Community Health Workers have already started distributing condoms in the rural area.

In order to intensify the implementation of the Programme in the States, personal letters have been addressed by the State Chief Ministers and Health Ministers to the members of State Legislatures requesting them to lend their support to the Programme. Similar appeals have to also been made to the Members of Parliament on behalf of the Union Ministry. Various voluntary organisations, local bodies and women's associations have also been associated with the Programme.

In order to promote healthy competition between States/U.Ts and non-official organisations, a scheme for giving national awards in recognition of outstanding performance has been introduced. Special awards have also been announced for performance during the period January—March, 1979 which was observed as 'Family Planning Quarter' in order to focus attention of the people on the need for adopting the small family norm and better care of children. All media resources including the All India Radio and 'Doordarshan' are being utilised for propagating the Family Welfare Programme.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Increased House Rent Allowance for N. F. Railway Staff

7675. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in house rent allowance for the Railway employees serving in the hill areas of D.H. Section of North Frontier Railway is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) & (b). Necessary orders in regard to revision of rates of House Rent Allowance for the Railway employees serving in certain hill areas which cover D.H. Section of Northeast Frontier Railway have since been issued. The revised rates are as under:—

#### Pay range Rate of House rent allowance

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| (1) Upto Rs. 750  | 7.5% of the Pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 15/- p.m. |
| (2) Above Rs. 750 | Amount by which pay falls short of Rs. 806.25.        |

(c) Does not arise.

#### Filling up of Posts in Provident Fund Organisation

7676. SHRI MANOHAR LAL :  
SHRI SHIV NARAIN  
SARSONIA :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers and staff of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation remained on *ad-hoc* for the last 10 years or more and as a result the depart-

ment could not produce its own officers for more than one decade;

(b) if so, the steps taken to regularise the *ad-hoc* appointments and whether the departments has sent some proposals which are pending for the last so many months and the posts are lying vacant and the work of the organisation is suffering badly; and

(c) why and what restrained Government to fill up all the posts by promoting departmental officers including the post of Deputy Central Provident Fund Commissioner which is lying vacant from 31st July, 1978 F.A. and C.A.O. and all the other Deputy Regional Provident Fund Commissioner posts and how much time will it take ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA). (a) There have been a few cases like this. However, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has a sizeable number of departmental officers except in the case of Accounts Officers whose appointments are subject to passing of a prescribed examination.

(b) The Central Provident Fund Commissioner had issued instructions in January, 1978 to review *ad hoc* appointments and to take action for filling up these posts on regular basis. No proposal for regularisation of *ad hoc* appointment is pending with the Government.

(c) There is no objection in principle to fill up vacant posts by promotion of eligible and suitable departmental officers.

#### Blindness among Children

7677. SHRI P. M. SAYEED :  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :  
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-  
SHEKHARA MURTHY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 40,000 children in India suffer from blindness every year according to the Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for Blind;

(b) if so, how far this is true;

(c) what are the main causes for the increase in blindness among the children in India; and