

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No. There have, however been occasional shortages in some dispensaries due to short supply of medicines in general in the market or late arrival of consignments.

(b) Super Bazar supplies only a small amount of medicines—mostly non-formulary items prescribed for the beneficiaries. There may be non-availability of a few medicines at certain occasions.

(c) No. There may, however, be some occasional vacancies due to leave, transfer, retirement, resignation etc. of the incumbents.

(d) According to the guidelines and the prescribed procedure now followed, whenever any item is not available with the Super Bazar, the beneficiaries are authorised to procure these items from the open market and their cost is reimbursed by the Super Bazar.

(e) and (f). Suitable action is invariably taken to fill up these vacancies.

Capitation Fee for Admission to Medical Colleges

607. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has communicated to the State Governments its opposition to the levy of capitation fees for admission to private medical colleges by the State Government;

(b) if so, the States where such capitation fee is charged;

(c) whether all the State Governments were asked by the Centre not to charge capitation fee from any individual in future;

(d) if so, how many States agreed and acted upon during the current academic year;

(e) whether the reports have come to the Government that many States are still charging capitation fee in various medical colleges; and

(f) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes

(b) and (e). According to information available capitation fees are still being charged in some medical colleges in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d): The Government of India have advised the State Governments which have medical colleges to do away with this practice. Of the three States in which medical colleges are charging capitation fees, the only college in Punjab, a private institution, has done away with this practice from the academic session 1981-82.

(f) The State Governments concerned will continue to be advised to end the practice of capitation fees. The Government is also contemplating the introduction of suitable legal measures to ensure against the continuation of the practice

Complaints of Short Distance Commuters Against Taxi And Autorickshaw Drivers

608. SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of a large number of complaints from the commuters of different areas about refusal of autorickshaw and taxi drivers to take passengers to short distances and charging arbitrary fares from them; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the authorities against such erring drivers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b): In order to attend to the complaints being received