

Amendment of Gratuity Act

1280. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE:
DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the Gratuity Act soon;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and since when it is under consideration; and

(c) in what direction this proposed amendment would benefit the workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes,

(b) and (c). During 1973, some suggestions were received for amendment of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, with a view, *inter alia*, to enlarging its scope, setting up of a Gratuity Fund and protecting better benefits available to workers. These are under consideration.

Deaths by using Spurious Drugs in various hospitals in the country

1281. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who died in various hospitals in the country for using spurious drugs during 1973-74.

(b) the facts thereof;

(c) the spurious drugs which have been detected so far; and

(d) the punishment Government has given to the culprits and the number of persons arrested in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Ratio of Beds, Doctors, Surgeons and Nurses in Hospitals in relation to population in the country

1282. SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

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

(a) how many hospitals are there in each town and each village in India;

(b) what is the ratio of the availability of beds in hospitals in relation to population in the villages and towns in the country; and

(c) how many doctors, nurses and surgeons are available in relation to the population and their ratio in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) The information required is not available. However, a statement giving information available, indicating number of hospitals and dispensaries State/Union Territory-wise along with their bed strength is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-8106/74]. Besides this, 5268 Primary Health Centres and 33,465 Sub-Centres were functioning in the country as on 31-12-1973.

(b) Bed population ratio (Bed per 1000 population) is 0.49 : 1000.

(c) Doctor: Population ratio (including Surgeons) is 1 : 4370 and Nurse Population ratio is 1 : 8900.

Funds for Health Centres and Family Planning Centres in Kerala

1283. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state the total