

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (d) It is not true that there has been steep rise in the prices of medicines. Moreover, the OPCO, 95 does not make distinction between life saving drugs and other drugs. Life saving nature of the drugs depends upon the particular situation and circumstances. For ensuring availability of drugs at reasonable prices the Government has been promulgating Drugs Prices Control Order under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time. The current order known as Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 was promulgated on 6.1.1995. At present, 74 drugs alongwith their formulations identified by the application of criteria in para 22.7.2 of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" are under Price Control. To ensure more availability of drugs at competitive and reasonable prices, the pharmaceutical sector has been totally delicensed except for five items. This will encourage more units to come up in the pharmaceutical sector.

[Translation]

#### Leprosy Cases

\*593. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether leprosy is a serious contagious disease;

(b) whether people get infected due to contact with the patients; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have developed any medicine to cure this disease alongwith the other steps being taken for the treatment of leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Healthy persons can get infected only in cases of prolonged exposure for several months to a Multi Bacillary type of leprosy patient who has not taken any multi drug therapy treatment. Multi drug therapy for leprosy is given free of cost to all leprosy patients and a single dose of this treatment can destroy 99% of the Bacilli in the patient's body rendering him non-infectious. A single dose treatment for single lesion case has also been introduced from January, 1998.

#### Foreign Assistance for Cancer Institutes

\*594. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

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

(a) whether any foreign aid has been received for setting up Cancer Institutes in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of assistance received, State-wise, country-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for setting up such centres with the foreign assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Country-wise;

(e) the terms and conditions for granting assistance; and

(f) the number of cancer institutes proposed to be opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per available records following proposal was received :

(i) Cancer Institute & Research Centre at Ernakulum, Kerala under Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

(e) In the absence of any agreement, the terms and conditions of the assistance were not framed.

(f) Central Government do not propose to set up any new cancer hospital during the Ninth Plan.

[English]

#### Lock up and Jails under N.H.R.C.

\*595. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States and Union Territories including Delhi have sought to place the police lock ups and jails under the supervision of the National Human Rights Commission for opening them up to surprise checks;

(b) if so, the names of such States and UTs:

(c) the main reasons which led the States and UTs to place police lock ups under NHRC's supervision;

(d) whether there is a proposal to issue an uniform jail manual for bringing about uniformity and order in the maintenance of jails and lock ups;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether cell-phones and other electronic gadgets of communication are being used by the prisoners for engineering crime from the jail premises; and

(g) if so, the steps being taken to stop the recurrence of such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The National Human Rights Commission had requested the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to permit its officials to visit police lock-ups. 27 States/Union Territories have accepted the request. The names of these States/Union Territories are as follows :-

States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Union territories of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(d) and (e) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Jail manuals are prepared by the State Governments keeping in view their local requirements. However, the Central Government has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, on the latest thinking on correctional administration for incorporation in their respective Jail manuals and for general use.

(f) and (g) If is for the State Governments to take appropriate action in the matter. However, the Central Government has been providing assistance to the State Governments under its Scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration to supplement their efforts for strengthening security arrangements, etc. in jails.

#### Medicinal Plants, Herbs and Herbal Spices

\*596. SHRI ADITYANATH :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that

medicinal plants, herbs and herbal spices are found in abundance in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made intensive exploration of the herbs in the forest for manufacturing medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to undertake any special study-cum-project to assess and utilise the medicinal potential of herbs and spices in these areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Surveys have been conducted in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and various other parts of the country by Survey Units of Organisations viz. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine working under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Large number of Medicinal Plants, herbs and herbal spices used in manufacturing of medicines found in these areas have been identified.

(d) and (e) The Central Councils for Research for Ayurved & Siddha, for Unani Medicine and for Homoeopathy have been instructed to compile comprehensive data on medicinal plants in the country. This will cover the medicinal plants of hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh also.

Central assistance has also been sanctioned to the organisation viz. High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal (U.P.) to implement the project of development of Agro-techniques of some medicinal plants found in hilly areas, under the Scheme of Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

#### Assistance to Malaria Eradication

\*597. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

DR. ASIM BALA :

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

(a) whether malaria has been eradicated in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided any Central assistance to States for malaria treatment