

(b) to (e) A decision has been taken to conduct an enquiry. The hospital authorities have reported that they have taken the following steps:—

- (1) The boundary wall of the Incinerator site has been raised to 9 feet so that Jhuggi dwellers staying at the back do not have access to it.
- (2) A security Guard has been posted round the clock to keep a watch on unauthorised entry into the incinerator site.
- (3) Surprised rounds of the area are taken by the Additional Medical Superintendent, Security at odd hours of the day.

[Translation]

Medical Practice without Degree

1589. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of quacks are providing treatment as a result of which thousand of people die every year in the country;

(b) if so, whether an assessment has been made about doing medical practice without any recognised degree by the quacks in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to check these quacks; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) No Survey has been conducted by the Government to find out no. of quacks providing treatment in the country.

(d) and (e) Penal Provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as well as in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practise medicine in any State and any person contravening this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one

year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Further, the Government has initiated steps to enact legislation for prohibition of unauthorised institutions awarding degrees etc., in Modern Medicine & ISM&H as also practice by unqualified persons in these systems.

[English]

Supply of Items by NCCF

1590. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCCF has been supplying stationery and other items of inferior quality at higher rates to Government Departments;

(b) whether there is any proposal to direct NCCF to indicate brand names, sizes and other specifications on their bills as is done by the Kendriya Bhandar; and

(c) the manner in which the rates and quality of items supplied to the Government Departments by NCCF compare with Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) NCCF has informed that they make supply of quality goods at competitive rates.

(b) The NCCF has informed that the efforts are made by them to indicate brand name and other particulars in sale invoices while making supplies to Government Departments.

(c) The NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar have independent pricing policies dependent on business factors. As such any meaningful comparison of their rates in respect of all the commodities may not be possible.

Prices of Salt

1591. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have modified an order of his Ministry dated November 27, 1997 banning the sale of ordinary salt on account of higher prices of the iodised salt;