

and contraception needs. The policy of the Government has been to offer these facilities to citizens in a user-friendly manner while motivating citizens through IEC to use these facilities in an informed manner.

(b) The National Family Welfare programme has been able to bring down the birth rate from 41.7 per 1000 population in 1951-61 to 27.2 in 1997, infant mortality rate from 146 in 1951-61 to 71 in 1997 and fertility rate from 6 in 1951 to 3.5 in 1994. These substantial achievements do not indicate failure of Family Welfare effort though the objective of achieving stable population has not yet been achieved.

(c) and (d) All the schemes under the Family Welfare programme are for use by all the communities. No community or group of citizens has been kept out of the purview of Family Welfare programmes by the Government.

Criticism on Draft National Blood Policy

*238. SHRI S. S. OWAISI :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

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

(a) whether the Government have released draft of the National blood policy recently;

(b) If so, the details and the main features thereof;

(c) whether this policy has come in for sharp criticism from experts in this field;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered the views expressed by the experts in regard to blood policy;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and.

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that blood is made available to needy persons without any hardships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (g) A draft National Blood Policy has been formulated and it has been widely circulated to all State Governments and Union Territories, Blood Banks, Voluntary Blood Banks/Associations and eminent Doctors; etc. for their views and suggestions. Based on the comments/views from these agencies, the policy will be finalised. The objective of Draft National Blood Policy is to plan for developments of nation-wide system in order to

ensure easily accessible and adequate supply of safe and quality blood and components for all irrespective of economic or social status. The policy would aim to improve the quality of blood transfusion services through a comprehensive and total management approach. The draft National Blood Policy aims at the following strategy for providing safe blood and blood products:

- (i) strengthening the National Blood Transfusion Services making it an integral part of the health care system.
- (ii) Ensuring adequate supply of blood to all blood centres.
- (iii) Ensuring safety of blood and blood products.
- (iv) Developing facilities for production of components.
- (v) Developing and strengthening facilities for Plasma Fractionation.
- (vi) Strengthening quality control of blood and blood products.
- (vii) Undertaking research on Blood Transfusion Services operations to improve safety, efficacy in supply of blood.
- (viii) Developing and strengthening effective management, monitoring and evaluation of the Blood Transfusion Services.

Comments and views have been received from many experts and some are still being received. From the comments received so far, it has been observed that more or less a large number of them are in conformity, and some have also given good suggestions, which will be given due consideration by the National Blood Transfusion Council before finalising. However, up till now, no sharp criticism of the policy has been received.

In order to ensure that blood is made available to needy persons without hardship, the Government of India have taken a number of steps for generating enough blood through Voluntary Blood Donation Programmes such as:

1. A campaign has been launched through Television by specially developed TV spots, telecast through Doordarshan at suitable intervals during Prime Time, for motivating people to donate blood voluntarily.
2. Messages on voluntary blood donation are broadcast through Times Times FM channel in one of their music programmes.
3. NACO with the help of the Central Health Edu-

cation Bureau have developed prototype IEC material for one to one communication on voluntary blood donation programme in the form of folders, posters and the same have been given to various States and UTs for use and reproduction in the vernacular languages.

4. The National Council of Science and Technology Communication (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) have initiated a pilot intervention project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities, with a view to fill the gap between demand and availability of blood.
5. Blood Banks have been asked to maintain database of Voluntary Donors so that they are kept in regular touch and can be contacted in emergency, in addition to recognising and honouring them by awards, certificates, badges etc.
6. Every year the 1st of October is celebrated as the National Voluntary Blood Donation Day. Special campaigns to educate the masses and special camps for blood collection are organised. Messages from the President of India and Minister of Health and Family Welfare with appeals for voluntary blood donation are telecast and broadcast. These messages also appear in newspapers.

Spurious Medicines

*239. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether various life saving drugs of inferior quality in the names of reputed companies are available in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Government has failed to check this menace;

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government to check manufacture and sale of spurious drugs in the country;

(d) the total number of persons died during each of last three years due to consumption of spurious medicines in the country particularly in the capital; and

(e) the effective steps the Government propose to take to bring necessary changes in the laws to punish those found manufacturing and selling the spurious drugs/medicines and ensure the sale of genuine medicines in the market at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Spurious drugs are being detected from time to time by the State drug control administrations as part of their normal sampling and surveillance activities. As per the data available from the States, 132 samples of drugs were found spurious out of 25547 samples tested during 1997-98. The percentage of spurious drugs comes to 0.5% of the total drug samples taken during 1997-98.

(c) Manufacture of spurious drugs is an unlicensed and illegal activity undertaken by unscrupulous manufacturers. The Drug Control authorities raid such establishments with the assistance of the police, based on information received.

Decoy customers are deputed by States to make test purchase of questionable quality of drugs to assist the enforcement staff. Under Section 26 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (D & C Act), 1940, consumer associations have also been authorised to draw any suspicious samples for sending to the approved laboratories for testing. They are also empowered to file complaints in the courts of law under section 32 of the D & C Act, 1940. Chemists and Druggists Associations have been asked to educate consumers with regard to DOs and DONTs for purchase and intake of medicines.

(d) The requisite information for the country is being collected and will be laid in the Table of the House.

(e) The action taken by the Government to deal with the problem is given as under:

(i) Section 36 A was introduced in the D & C Act, 1940 in 1982 to empower the State Governments to summarily try certain offences by a 1st class Judicial Magistrate specially empowered for this purpose by the State Government or by the Metropolitan Magistrate;

(ii) States have been advised to constitute Legal-cum-Intelligence Cells to unearth spurious drugs with police assistance;

(iii) A proposal to augment the drug testing capacity and strengthen the enforcement staff in both the Centre and States with World Bank assistance is under formulation.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities

*240. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate medical facilities have not been provided to all the people even after a long period of independence;