

- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken or proposed to be taken any remedial measures in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the measures taken so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) There is no definite estimation of illegal abortions in the country. It is a fact that illegal and unsafe abortions are still more than the reported/legal abortions (Medical Termination of Pregnancy).

- (b) The main reasons are :
1. Ignorance of the provisions of MTP Act;
 2. Lack of adequate facilities for MTP and qualified medical practitioners for conducting MTP;
 3. Social values and prejudices in many parts of the country still do not favour abortion. Unmarried, widowed and divorced women are usually reluctant to seek abortion services in public hospitals.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) A brief account of the measures taken is in the statement attached.

Statement

Legalising safe abortion in certain prescribed circumstances through the enactment of MTP Act was the first major step taken by the Government against unauthorised abortions. The number of approved MTP facilities in the country has increased (1877 in 1976 to 8511 in 1994-95). MTP equipments have been supplied to Government health facilities with operation theatres. Doctors are being trained for MTP facilities.

Under the RCH programme, certain other major steps are being taken to improve and expand the facilities and their utilisation.

- i. In order to make MTP facilities easily accessible, all rural health facilities at the district and sub-divisional levels as also the community health centres are being equipped with facilities for MTP. The objectives is to extend these facilities to the PHC level in a phased manner.
- ii. Doctors are being trained in MTP techniques in large numbers for coping with the demand for this service.

- iii. In addition to regular doctors, provisions have been made for deploying additional medical personnel on contract basis for attending PHCs on certain fixed days in the week, for providing MTP and other safe motherhood services. Private clinics willing to provide MTP services are being given MTP equipment and also training facilities, if they have OTs and qualified staff.
- iv. To make the public, especially poor and uneducated people, aware of the legal status of MTP as also the availability of MTP services in their neighbourhood, IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign is being intensified.
- v. Certain provisions in the MTP Act 1971 and MTP Rules 1975 are proposed to be amended so as to provide for easier recognition of MTP centres and improvement in their reporting system.

Expenditure on Exploratory Drilling

1041. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount spent by ONGC and other Oil companies on surveys and exploratory drilling during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;
- (b) the estimated expenditure expected on the said activities during 1998-99;
- (c) whether the Government have analysed the inflow of information from exploratory work during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The amount of expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL on survey and exploratory drilling during the last three years and the estimated expenditure for the current year is indicated below :-

	(Rs. in crores)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)	1998-99 (Est.)
	1	2	3	4
ONGC				
Survey	214.66	219.62	303.57	391.00

1	2	3	4	5
Exploratory drilling	1047.83	1173.15	912.99	1365.00
Total	1262.49	1392.77	1216.56	1756.00
OIL				
Survey	24.33	27.68	38.65	50.09
Exploratory drilling	118.14	128.85	146.47	247.73
Total	142.47	156.53	185.12	297.82

(c) to (e) Analysis of inflow of information generated from surveys and exploratory drilling is an ongoing process. It helps in discovering hydrocarbon bearing new structures and developing the oil and gas fields.

Based on such analysis, acquisition of geo-scientific data and drilling of wells are planned every year as a part of ongoing process of exploration.

Racket in Kidney Theft

1042. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Kidney -theft racket flourishing all over the country; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government to punish the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) It is not a fact that Kidney theft racket is flourishing all over the country, except a few incidents as reported in News Papers.

(b) Transplantation of Human Organs Act has been passed by the Parliament, which has come into force with effect from 5.2.95. It provides for the regulation of removal storage and transplantation of Human Organs, for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealing in Human Organs, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act provides for stringent punishment for a term which may extend upto five years with fine upto ten thousand rupees. If a registered Medical practitioner is convicted, his name can be removed from the Register of the State Medical Council, for a period of two years for the first offence, and permanently for a subsequent offence. Some of the States like Bihar, U.P. etc.

Child Labourers in the Tea Gardens

1043. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of child labourers are engaged in the tea gardens of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check child labour in such gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Indira Gandhi Health Institute, Shillong (Meghalaya)

1044. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi Health Institute, Shillong (Meghalaya) was supposed to be partly operational by December, 1997 after purchase of necessary equipments and its installation;

(b) if so, the details of its progress thereof;

(c) whether a Committee was set up to work out a detailed project report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any report has been submitted by the said committee; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Efforts are being made to make the Interim Facilities operational by taking steps for installation of medical equipment and appointment of medical personnel.

The selection of some essential equipment and their suppliers has been completed by the Institute, after following the due tendering and procurement procedures, and the proposals have received the recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee. The Institute's proposals for obtaining approval of the President, Governing Council, has been received by the Ministry in April, 1998.

The Government sanctioned 108 posts in Group A, B, C & D. In response to the advertisement for filling up the posts again 11 vacancies in Group 'A' posts, not a single