

(b) If so, the names of the said minority groups and the names of the places where female circumcision is practised alongwith the number of girls on whom the operation performed during the last three years;

(c) the nature of the ill effects of females circumcision on the health of women; and

(d) the action contemplated to be taken to curb the practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) Information has been called for from the States/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The immediate and long term health consequences of female genital mutilation vary according to the type and severity of the procedure performed.

T.B. Vaccine

35. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL:

SHRI L. RAMANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh has developed a new vaccine for treatment of tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to produce it on a mass scale and to popularise it;

(d) whether BCG vaccine has become ineffective in controlling the spread of the disease; and

(e) if so, the reasons for its use being continued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) BCG vaccine has been demonstrated to prevent disseminated forms of TB.

(e) Do not arise.

Medicinal Plants

36. DR. KRJPASINDHU BHOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated for the purpose;

(c) whether some Central Ministries and State Governments are involved in this programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing schemes for setting up/expansion of herbal gardens for cultivation of identified species of medicinal plants used in ISM & H and for development of Agro-techniques for cultivation of medicinal plants. Under these schemes financial assistance is given to Government/Semi Government organisations.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme for conservation and development of non-timber forest produce including medicinal plants. This scheme is implemented through State Forest Departments. Similarly, Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally sponsored scheme through Agriculture Universities, CSIR and State Government Departments for the development of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Janta Darbar

37. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the objective behind organising "Janta Darbar" at the residence of Prime Minister and the arrangement made therefor;

(b) the number of complaints received on 30th May, 1997 in the "Janta Darbar" and the section of Society from which these complaints were received and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether all the complaints received have since been acknowledged; and

(d) the arrangements likely to be made to expedite action on the complaints received from the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) Janta Milan programmes are organised at the Prime Minister's residence to enable the Prime Minister to have a direct interaction with people and knowledge of the various grievances of the public. Public has free access to meet the Prime Minister during the time fixed for it.

(b) to (d) During the Janta Milan of 30.5.97, Prime Minister received 146 petitions from all such people who came to express their grievance to the Prime Minister. All the petitions received have been scrutinised and forwarded for appropriate action to the concerned authority as per the prescribed procedure. The position of petitions received on 30th May, 1997 is as under:-