

Injection for Thalassemia

4759. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thalassemia is the most killer disease for children in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the price of the injection used for the cure of this disease;

(c) whether the Government propose to give subsidy on purchasing of the injection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Though Thalassemia may not be the most killer disease for children in India, children are the worst affected by this disease.

(b) to (d) The curative treatment for Thalassemia is Bone Marrow transplant, offered only at the Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore. The currently available treatment to combat severe anemia caused by this disorder is repeated blood transfusion. To remove excess iron from the body, an iron chelator, Desferrioxamine is given by means of subcutaneous infusion. This drug as also its infusion pump are imported. Exemption from Customs Duty has already been extended to both these items.

[Translation]

Supply of Gold for Ayurvedic Medicines

4760. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

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

(a) whether gold is provided at reasonable rates to the Ayurvedic companies for manufacturing of medicines;

(b) if so, the norms laid down in this regard; and

(c) the means adopted by the Government to confirm as to whether the gold given to the Ayurvedic companies has been utilized fully for the intended purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No Sir. The manufacturers have to procure gold on their own.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Addition of Assessment Marks with Main Examinations

4761. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether internal assessment marks are added to main examination results of the candidates who appear in the examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education;

(b) if so, whether the internal assessment marks of children of Lady Noise School, Delhi, where deaf and dumb students have appeared for 10th class exam were added to main exam; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Golden Handshake Scheme in Defence Services

4762. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Handshake Scheme is proposed to be introduced in the defence services like all other Government organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Premature retirement with pension is not permitted in the defence services except in certain exceptional circumstances like extreme compassionate grounds.

Banning of Harmful Drugs

4763. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ban some harmful drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether World Health Organisation has banned some harmful drugs;

(e) if so, the names of such harmful drugs;

(f) whether the Government have banned the said harmful drugs in India also;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Banning of drugs is an on-going process. Based on the recommendations of experts and on the advice of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, a statutory advisory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Government, from time to time, prohibits manufacture and sale of drugs considered ineffective/irrational or harmful. 56 categories of drugs/durg formulations have so far been prohibited.

(d) to (h) Banning of drugs does not come under the purview of World Health Organisation. It reports about the harmful drugs in some countries. World Health Organisation are reported to have withdrawn 44 drugs from use in some countries. Of these, 26 drugs were not approved for marketing in India, 11 drugs have been withdrawn on the advice of experts and the remaining 7 drugs have been allowed for continued marketing in consultation with medical experts subject to necessary cautionary statement on the labels and package inserts.

Blood Bank

4764. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fraud Blood Banks are running in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether blood sold by these banks was prepared by chemicals only; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the selling of such blood and action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d): All blood banks are required to be licenced as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules. Licences can now only be issued with the approval of the central licensing authority.

The State Government have been asked to conduct inspection of the Blood Banks in their States and to take action against the offenders under Section 27 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Supreme Court has also directed that all unlicensed Blood Banks should stop functioning after December, 1996.

[Translation]

Opening of Medical/Engineering Colleges

4765. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration for opening of medical/engineering colleges etc. at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for setting up of any Engineering College at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi. However, a proposal has been received from said Vidyapeeth, Varanasi to establish a medical college.

[English]

Sakti-Tangyar Highway

4766. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army, as well as, the people of Nubra Valley and Durbuk area of Ladakh had been demanding for construction of Sakti-Tangyar highway via Wari-la and through the Border Road Organisation (BRO);

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the construction of the said road, frequent blockade due to snow of Khardong-la and Chang-la can be avoided thereby saving crores of rupees every year for maintaining the above two passes; and

(c) if replies to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, whether the Government would start construction through B.R.O. of the proposed Sakti-Tangyar highway immediately to link both Nubra and Durbak area with Leh, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed road will not pass through Khardongla and Changla passes. It will be an alternative route for Khardongla and Changla.

(c) The Survey work for this road is in progress. Work will commence subject to availability of funds. The