

**Supply of Unscreened Blood by IRCS**

1377. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the blood being issued by the Indian Red Cross Society is not being screened for Hepatitis C & D;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of blood banks run by Red Cross Society of India in the country; and

(d) the procedure followed for accepting and donating blood by the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Every unit of blood issued by Indian Red Cross Society is tested for H.I.V, Hepatitis 'B', Syphilis and Malaria which are mandatory as per Drugs and Cosmetics Act/Rules. The blood units are not tested for Hepatitis C and D as these are not mandatory.

(c) There are 55 blood banks in the country run by Red Cross Society of India.

(d) For accepting blood the Indian Red Cross Society organises Voluntary Blood Donation Camps at regular intervals in colleges, religious organisations, banks, Lion and Rotary Clubs. They also accept blood from replacement donors who are friends and relatives of the patients needing blood.

**Facilities to Ex-Servicemen**

1378. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of matters relating to ex-servicemen including pensioners dealt with by his Ministry;

(b) whether providing housing to ex-servicemen and setting up of the Army Welfare Housing Organisation are also dealt by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Defence is responsible for formulation of policy guidelines on pensionary matters relating to Armed Forces pensioners. It also deals with the matters relating to resettlement and welfare of Ex-Servicemen, such as medical facilities, canteen facilities, financial assistance, training and self-employment of ex-Servicemen. It pursues matters with the concerned Central Ministries and Departments and State Governments for grant of various concessions/preferences to ex-Servicemen, such as reservation in Government jobs, travel concessions, tenancy legislation of various States in so far as their provisions relate to Defence personnel, reservation of seats and other educational concessions for wards of ex-Servicemen/ war widows etc.

2. Housing is provided by the State and Union Territory Governments. Most of the States/Union Territories have made varying percentages of reservations for serving/retired personnel, in the allotment of houses and house sites. The State Housing Boards/ Authorities are autonomous/ semi-Government bodies functioning under State/UT Governments and the Ministry of Defence has no control over them.

3. Army Welfare Housing Organisation (AWHO) is a society registered with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi under the Societies Act XXI of 1860. It is constructing houses for serving and retired Army personnel on self-financing basis. Ministry of Defence have been giving interest bearing loans to the Society for purchase of land for various projects. The AWHO is managed and administered by its Board of Management and Ministry of Defence, as such has no administrative control over it.

[Translation]

**Central Water Board, U.P.**

1379. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Central Water Board to identify the water shortage areas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have constructed the high capacity tubewells in the state;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon during last two years; and

(d) the target fixed for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Ground Water Board has drilled 26 high yielding exploratory wells in Uttar Pradesh during last two years.

(c) The amount incurred by the Board in this regard is Rs. 43.15 lakhs.

(d) Central Ground Water Board has fixed a target of drilling 65 boreholes in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98.

**Drop-Out Rate of Girl Students**

1380. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drop-out rate of the girl students have been increasing day by day;

(b) if so, details thereof during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to rectify the situation?