

also used in the hospital after proper sterilisation.

(d) and (e): Guidelines on control of hospital acquired infections circulated to all the States/Union Territories, inter-alia, indicate that the injection should only be given by a auto-claved or pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes. Both auto-claved - reusable and pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes are equally safe and are in use in Central Government hospitals.

Radio Therapy

2330. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent of the cancer cases can be cured with radio therapy;

(b) whether only 190 external radio therapy machines are available in the country whereas their requirement is 800;

(c) if so, the reasons for availability of such a less number of such machines;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the availability of these machines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) As per the available record there are 214 Cobalt Radio Therapy machines available in the Country. The Cobalt Therapy machines are very expensive and due to limited availability of funds the programme is being carried-out in phases.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to increase the number of tele-cobalt machines within the available budget. During the last three financial years financial assistance has been provided for setting up of 31 Cobalt Therapy Units. In addition, to above, financial assistance has also been provided to 31 Medical Colleges/Hospitals for upgradation of Development of oncology wing which inter-alia includes a provision of cobalt-60 teletherapy equipments.

[Translation]

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

2331. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no proper arrangement regarding medicines etc. in the dispensaries functioning

under Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, whether due to poor arrangement there is shortage of medicines in the said dispensaries of Delhi and other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of all essential medicines in CGHS dispensaries at every time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) By and large, most of the listed medicines in the CGHS formulary are presently available in the dispensaries run by the Central Government Health Scheme. However, occasional shortages which are encountered are made up by resorting to local purchase from the approved local chemists. In case of emergencies, an Authority Slip' is issued permitting the beneficiaries to collect the medicines from the authorised local chemists directly, without making any payment. Regular meetings are held with the Stores Organisation to assess the stock position of medicines and necessary steps taken to augment supplies where needed.

[English]

Garage Facility

2332 SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no provision of scooter garage in some of the Type-II and Type-III Government quarters in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations from various Resident's Welfare Associations/Area Welfare Officers/Residents have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no provision of scooter garages in:-

i) All Type II quarters.

ii) All Type III quarters upto two storeyed and ground floor quarters in more than three storeyed blocks.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received by CPWD regarding provision of a scooter garage in quarters mentioned at (b) above.

(e) CPWD has reported that request has not been agreed to in view of existing guidelines for not providing scooter garages in all type II & double storeyed type III quarters. Ground floor type III quarters in more than two storeyed constructions are not provided scooter garage considering that they can park their scooter in their quarters.

Non-Payment of PF Dues

2333. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Export Corporation Limited Kanpur has not released accumulated Provident Fund of its employees who retired or left the service in the year 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether the Government have taken any penal action against the corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Report of United Nations Development Programme

2334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Human Development Report 1997, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has warned the Indian Government that its focus on reducing fiscal deficit is forcing major cuts in public spending and hampering poverty alleviation efforts;

(b) whether the report has also highlighted the Government's failure to provide free and compulsory education, abolishing of child labour, to provide adequate funds for social services and economic security of the marginalised communities;

(c) whether the Industrial growth has neglected the agriculture and the rural population have become further poor;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the points raised in the report;

(e) whether some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab have managed to reduce poverty by 50% whereas 50% of India rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to provide sufficient funds for removing poverty from India and also to reduce fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Human Development Report, 1997 states ".... The focus on reducing fiscal deficits in forcing major cuts in public spending and the emphasis on state minimalism is leading to abdication of state responsibilities in key areas affecting the lives of the poor people". This includes free and compulsory elementary education, abolition of child labour, adequate provision for social services and economic security of marginalised communities.

(c) The Report states that during the period 1951 to mid-seventies, the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line fluctuated. From mid-seventies till the end of eighties, there were significant and steady improvement in incidence of both rural and urban poverty. India did not see a consistent drop in poverty in the first period because of a greater emphasis on total output than on distribution. In the urban areas the focus was on heavy industry and public enterprises rather than on the micro enterprises that employ most of the poor people.

(d) to (f) As per the Planning Commission estimates, there is a substantial decline in the proportion of poor for most of the states for the period 1973-94. The proportion of poor in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab has declined by more than 50 per cent and that of Haryana by about 30 per cent. For the year 1993-94, nearly 47 per cent of India's rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Among the objectives identified for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the Approach Paper lists the following:

(i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. For the first time, agricultural growth is targeted at 4.5 per cent per annum for the Plan period.