

has been made. However, as per the Medical Council of India, the doctor-population ratio for allopathic doctors is about 1:1800; further taking into account the number of qualified Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy practitioners which is 5,77,643, the ratio is comparatively better than that of other developing countries. Presently approximately 17,000 Medical Graduates and 8000 Post-graduates are qualifying each year.

(d) to (f) Proposals have been received from State Governments as well as individual societies/trusts seeking the permission of the Central Government for starting new medical colleges. Such proposals are examined in consultation with Medical Council of India and permission granted on fulfilment of the prescribed qualifying criteria.

Explosive Substance Act, 1908

3881. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the existing Explosive Substance Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Keeping in view the prevailing law and order situation in the country, a proposal to amend certain provisions of the Explosive Substance Act, 1908 is under consideration of the Central Government.

Nexus between Police and Mafia

3882. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR) :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'nexus between police officials, local liquor Mafia, report' appearing in 'The Times of India' dated May 30, 1998;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials involved in this racket ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Delhi Police have ordered a vigilance enquiry into the matter. In the meantime, the 4 suspected police officials have been transferred.

Awareness about Anti-smoking Campaign

3883. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the statutory warning on each packet of a cigarette has failed to have any impact on the smoker;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to intensify its anti-smoking campaign there is need for creating health and preventive awareness among the smoker; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No such survey in India to study the efficacy of the warning written on cigarette packets and advertisements has been carried out.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Govt. has intensified its efforts to discourage people from consuming tobacco. Under the administrative instructions, smoking is prohibited in Hospitals, Dispensaries and other Health Care establishment, Educational Institutions, Conference Halls, domestic air-flights, air-conditioned chair cars and air-conditioned sleeper coaches in trains, sub-trains and air conditioned buses under the control of Govt. of India. Smoking has also been prohibited in public places and public conveyances in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. Direct advertisement relating to tobacco or tobacco related products are prohibited on Doordarshan and All India Radio. The Government has advised all the State Governments to ensure that tobacco products are not sold in and around educational institutions such as schools, colleges. A proposal is also under consideration to bring forward a comprehensive legislation which is expected to reduce the use of tobacco in the country.

Welfare of Beedi Workers

3884. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demands for the welfare of beedi workers is pending;

(b) if so, whether any demands of the Women Workers rolling beedi in Kerala are being considered;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;