

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is pending with the Government; and

(c) the present position of the proposal and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYANA JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The proposal to open a new Sub-Regional Office (S.R.O.) is approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. Generally, such proposals are initially considered and approved by the Regional Committee, EPF, which is a tripartite body set up for advising the CBT on operation of EPF Schemes in the State. There have been representations from various quarters for opening an SRO at Shimoga from time to time since July, 1995. Earlier, as per the norms, opening of SRO at Shimoga was not *prima-facie* found feasible. However, pursuant to notification of some new districts in the State in July, 1997 there is a need for re-organisation in of SRC in Karnataka. Accordingly, the EPF Organisation has decided to place the matter before the Regional Committee, EPF in its ensuing Meeting.

[English]

Requirement of Blood in NIMHANS, Bangalore

4884. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average requirement of blood every day in NIMHANS, Bangalore;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of blood in Nimhans, Bangalore after the decision of the Supreme Court banning paid donors;

(c) whether the blood bank at Nimhans has been upgraded to higher storage capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The requirement of blood in NIMHANS every day on an average is 10 units of whole blood; 5 units of Fresh Frozen Plasma; 5 units of blood for Plasmapheresis; 5 units of Platelet Concentrate and 25 to 30 units of Packed Cells.

(b) After the decision of the Supreme Court banning paid donors, no blood is collected at NIMHANS from

Professional donors and the requirement of blood is met from Voluntary Donors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The blood bank at NIMHANS has been upgraded and shifted to a new building with space as specified by the Drugs Controller of India. It has been designated as "Modern Blood Bank" by Drugs Controller of Karnataka. NIMHANS have specified space and equipments to bleed, store and screen the blood with equipment for component separation and plasmapheresis.

[Translation]

Provisions for Medical Courts

4885. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create medical courts on the lines of labour courts, sales-tax courts/tribunals and income-tax tribunals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All services, if rendered for consideration have been covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. A consumer can file an allegation in writing in a consumer court against a medical practitioner and the consumer court has the power to direct the opposite party to pay such amount as may be awarded by it as compensation to the consumer for the loss or injury suffered by the consumer due to the negligence of the opposite party.

[English]

HIV Cases

4886. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned '28 HIV positive cases