

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Three allopathic dispensaries are already functioning at Trivandrum. Due to shortage of funds and manpower, it is not possible to expand CGHS at Trivandrum at present.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Due to shortage of funds and manpower, it is not possible to establish a CGHS laboratory at Trivandrum at present.

[*Translation*]

Delhi Zoo

841. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to make Delhi Zoo an autonomous body; and

(b) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Central Zoo Authority under the Chairmanship of Minister of Environment and Forests has recommended that the management of Delhi Zoo should be handed over to an autonomous organisation, especially created for the purpose.

(b) The modalities are being examined. The time frame has not yet been fixed.

[*English*]

National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme

842. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the various works done under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme during the last three years;

(b) whether any notification has been issued by the Union Government to ensure the use of only iodised salt; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in the entire country. The Programme strategy includes survey & re-survey of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of Iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion, Health Education and Publicity to increase awareness among people.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India issued a notification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act/ Rules, 1955 stipulation that salt sold for direct human consumption has to be compulsorily iodated with effect from 27.5.1998.

This matter is sub-judice in High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. However, the High Courts of Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have dismissed the public interest litigation and upheld the Government's above notification.

Bridges on NHs in Maharashtra

843. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bridges on the National Highways in Maharashtra in 1998;

(b) the number of bridges proposed to be built during Ninth Five Year Plan in the State; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The number of bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra as on 31-12-1998, were as under:—

Major Bridges	215
Minor Bridges	722

(b) and (c) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to re-construct 11 number of bridges on National Highways in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.38 crores.