

*[English]***Strike in AIIMS**

882. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
 SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
 SHRI P. SANKARAN:
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
 SHRI A.C. JOS:
 SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN:
 SHRI K.S. RAO:
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
 SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doctors of All India Institute of Medical Sciences have gone on an indefinite strike;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with the situation;

(d) whether the strike has caused immense hardships to the patients;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to alleviate them;

(f) the number of times AIIMS witnessed the strike during the last one year;

(g) whether the decision for raising the age of retirement of AIIMS faculty members from 60 to 62 years has not been officially notified in the Gazette of India;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the time by which it is likely to be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (f) The faculty of All India Institute of Medical Sciences rejected the revision in the pay scales and allowances, conveyed by the Government vide orders dated 21st January, 1999, and proceeded on indefinite strike from 8th February, 1999. They have demanded total implementation of the recommendations made by the K.K. Baksai Committee with a further modification in the pay scale of Additional Professor. The Government

have referred the matter to the Group of Ministers. The Group of Ministers while considering that the demands regarding the pay scale restructuring from the Faculty Association of AIIMS was not practicable in view of the competing claims from other similar institutions, decided in the meeting held on 22nd February, 1999 that the representatives of the Finance Ministry, Department of Personnel & Training and Ministry of Health would consider the possibility of such further improvement in the pay scales of the faculty of AIIMS/PGIMER as would avoid competing claims provided they agree to withdraw the strike so that the resolution of the issues can be arrived at in a cordial atmosphere. A Civil Writ has been filed in the High Court of Delhi. The faculty have since called off their strike and resumed duties on 25.2.99. During the strike period alternative arrangements had been made in the O.P.D. of Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to meet the additional rush of patients. This is the first time that the senior doctors/faculty went on strike since the inception of the Institute (1956).

(g) to (i) The notification for raising the age of retirement of the teaching faculty of the Institute has been published in the Gazette of India on 26.2.99.

*[Translation]***Selling of Hot Plates by LPG Distributors**

883. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG distributors are selling stoves, burners, hot plates etc. four times more than the market price throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the officials of Indian Oil Corporation do not take any action against these distributors despite having knowledge of it;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to conduct an inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Oil Companies do not fix prices of LPG stoves/hot plates