

these measures, the Palk Bay is kept under continuous surveillance by the Navy and Coast Guard.

The Central Government declared the LTTE as an unlawful association on 14.5.1998. This has strengthened the hands of the State and Central Governments in containing the activities of LTTE.

Royalty on Crude Oil

4925. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of royalty on crude oil is due for revision w.e.f. 1.4.1996;

(b) whether the rates were revised earlier by the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the rates are likely to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) After considering the recommendations of the Eswaran Committee and discussions with the concerned State Governments, the rate of royalty on crude oil was last fixed at Rs. 481 per metric tonne for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1993 in February, 1993. For the period 1.4.1993 to 31.3.1996, an 'on account' payment @ Rs. 528 per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil was made subject to adjustment on notification of the final rate of royalty and finalisation of crude price in due course. This 'on account' rate of royalty has been increased to Rs. 578 per metric tonne with effect from 1.4.1996.

For the three year period (1993-94 to 1995-96), the actual weighted average cost of production is being audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the final rate of royalty will be notified on this basis and necessary adjustments made against the 'on account' payments already made.

[Translation]

Purchase of Medicines by M.S.D.

4926. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS beneficiaries registered at medical store depot;

(b) whether Medical Store Depot can indent medicines on local purchase;

(c) if so, the reasons for such purchases and for whom these Local Purchase indents were made;

(d) the total expenditure incurred on such purchases during 1997-98;

(e) the policy of the Government for such purchases;

(f) whether the purchases made by Incharge Medical Store Depot is legal;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) As per the present procedure, CGHS beneficiaries are not registered at the CGHS Medical Store Depot (MSD).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The medicines are procured from the authorised chemists to ensure timely supply of the same to the CGHS beneficiaries besides avoiding inconvenience, if any, caused to them.

(d) For CGHS, Delhi—Rs. 27,51,94,002

For CGHS outside Delhi—the information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

(e) As in (c) above.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. All the purchases made the Medical Store Depot are legal.

(h) In view of (f) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Tribal Belt

4927. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been formed for declaring Tribal Belt?

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tribals are now called *van vassi*; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

HIV Cases

4928. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of HIV infected persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government in reducing its spread by other than allopathic means;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any study on the impact of Indian medicines (Ayurveda) and homoeopathic medicines on the infected persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) State-wise details of HIV infected persons are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) To promote and encourage research on drugs for cure of AIDS in Indian System of Medicines including Homoeopathy, Indian Council of Medical Research has set up an expert group to critically examine the proposal on research under the various systems of medicines other than Allopathic. ICMR has also established facilities for testing of anti-retroviral properties of some drugs of traditional medicines in the Indian System. Central Council of Research in Homoeopathy is conducting trials to test immuno-moduler properties on various Homoeopathic drugs of Management of AIDS cases. The outcome of these studies is still awaited.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise details of HIV Infected Persons

S. No.	Name	Screened	Positive	Sero Positivity Rate (per thousand)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74152	698	9.41
2.	Assam	12717	173	13.60
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	495	0	0.00
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	13026	108	8.29
5.	Bihar	9420	32	3.40