

(b) and (c) Details have been called for from the Ministries/Departments concerned and all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(d) The budget allocation of Rs. 125.37 crores (Rs. 106.44 crores—Plan + Rs. 18.93 crores—non-Plan) and Rs. 165.35 crores (Rs. 141.54 crores—Plan + Rs. 23.81 crores non-Plan) have been made during 1997-98 and 1998-99, respectively for the schemes/programmes being handled by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the welfare and development of the disabled persons.

Packing Unit in CGHS Dispensaries

4835. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of packing unit/quantity of Unani/Ayurvedic medicines for CGHS Unani/Ayurvedic Dispensary/Units during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for adopting two different types of policies in CGHS for Ayurvedic and Unani system;

(c) the role of packing unit in increasing or decreasing the OPD patients in dispensaries/Units; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The packing unit/quantity of Unani/Ayurvedic medicines for CGHS Unani/Ayurvedic was changed by the Purchase Advisory Committee/Formulary Committee for 1996-97 and 1997-98 for two years according to the prescribed doses of medicines given in the text books, keeping in view the prescribed doses of medicines and after calculating its quantity to be issued for 5 to 7 days to the CGHS beneficiaries at a time from the dispensaries.

(b) Both the systems have different types and doses of medicines. The question of adopting two different types of policies in CGHS for Ayurvedic and Unani systems therefore, does, not arise.

(c) The packing units/quantity is not related to increasing or decreasing of OPD patients.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

Abolition of Scavenging

4836. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether scavenging has been abolished by the Government in the country;

(b) if not, the details of States where this practice is still existing;

(c) the total number of scavengers engaged in this profession; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to abolish this abnoxious practice of scavenging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Efforts are being made to achieve this objective in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and N.C.T. of Delhi where this practice is still existing and approximately 3,10,505 scavengers are believed to be engaged in this profession currently.

(d) The Government has incorporated a National Safai Karamcharis' Finance and Development Corporation to assist scavengers alongwith Safai Karamcharis by providing loan assistance at concessional rate to take up projects as per lending guidelines of this Corporation. Also a National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers is also in operation since March, 1992. The Government have also set up a Statutory National Commission for Safai Karmacharis. A low cost sanitation scheme for liberation of scavengers by conversion of existing dry latrines into sanitary latrines and construction of new sanitary latrines where none exist is being implemented by M/o Urban Affairs and Employment.

Urea Imported

4837. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: