

(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' Provided 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 Fesh 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

in city' appearing in 'The Tribune' Chandigarh edition dated June 23, 1998;

(b) if so, whether there is any apprehension of an increase in the number of HIV infected persons by 2000 A.D.;

(c) if so, the details of other points raised in the State-level workshops for project designed for prevention and control programme of HIV/AIDS; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A state level workshop for project design was held at Chandigarh on 20th June, 1998. The participants in the workshop were divided into 7 groups to discuss key issues of the programme on a pre-designed matrix. The issues were:

- (i) Programme Management
- (ii) Interventions
- (iii) IEC and Social mobilisation
- (iv) Safe blood initiative
- (v) Surveillance
- (vi) STD Control & Condom promotion
- (vii) Clinical Care & Counselling.

The recommendations of these groups will then be transformed into a Project Implementation Plan for next 5 years (1999-2004) for Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(d) The National AIDS Control Organisation under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is also organising such State level workshops in all States/UTs in order to design a Project Implementation Plan for the respective State to be incorporated into the National Project Implementation Plan for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS for the next five years (1999-2004).

Amendments in Dentists Act, 1948

4887. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the professional bodies seeking amendments in Dentists Act, 1948 to empower Dental Council of India to act *suo-moto* to ensure transparency and accountability in the profession;

(b) if so, the details with the present status of the proposal thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) the Indian Dental Association vide their letter dated 1-7-91 has suggested various amendments to the Dentists Act. These suggestions are more or less on the lines of the changes proposed in the IMC Amendments Bill which has already been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1987 and the report submitted by the Joint Parliament committee thereupon.

Meeting of State Food Ministers

4888. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the State Food and Civil Supplies Ministers has been convened to discuss the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decisions taken in the meeting; and

(d) the number of States which participated in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) A meeting of the State Ministers, in-charge of Food, Civil Supplies and Sugar Industry Departments, was held on 25.6.1998 to ascertain