

[English]

Implementation of Fifth Pay Panel Report

972. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give necessary direction to the Indian Red Cross Society to implement recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the Indian Red Cross Society to charge the cost of disposables used in its Blood Banks from the donors as in the case of Government Hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As the Indian Red Cross Society is an autonomous Organisation, the question of issuing direction by the Government in them matter does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted non-profit Organisations, including Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to charge the cost of disposables used in the Blood Bank @ Rs. 250/- per unit. The cost of consumables is Rs. 600/- per unit approximately. The IRCS may subside the rest of the cost. However, the final decision is to be taken by the Managing Body of the India Red Cross Society.

Building Expressways

973. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "No Takers for building expressway in India" appearing in *Indian Express*, dated January 14, 1999;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the proposal of Malaysian Consortium of companies in executing four highway projects has run into rough weather; and

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to start expressway immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government does not agree with the views expressed therein.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Free Power Supply to Agriculture Sector

974. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the names of States where power supplied to agriculture sector is free of any charge?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): As per information available in the Central Electricity Authority, presently States of Tamil Nadu and Punjab are supplying power to Agriculture Sector free of charge.

Setting up a Naphtha Cracker Project In Tamil Nadu

975. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited propose to set up a Naphtha Cracker Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be start functioning; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY