

*[English]***Deaths due to Epidemic Disease**

1977. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children are dying due to epidemic diseases in Uttar Pradesh and other areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of children died due to epidemics in Uttar Pradesh and its adjoining areas during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government to check these epidemic;

(e) whether the Government made funds available to Uttar Pradesh during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the items on which Uttar Pradesh Government expended the funds, year-wise;

(h) whether the Government achieved the success to bring the epidemic under control; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

(d) to (i) Health is a State subject. The Central Government extend technical support to State Health Authorities in investigation and control of outbreak on specific request made by the State Government concerned. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases had investigated a few outbreaks of Measles gastro-enteritis, poliomyelitis and encephalopathy in U.P. Children were primarily affected.

For strengthening diseases surveillance and rapid response to outbreak in two Districts in the State, Government of India have allocated Rs. 24.25 lakh in 1997-98 under National Disease Surveillance Programme to Government of U.P. Information is being collected from the State Government of the action being taken by them.

**Price Hike in Petroleum Products**

1978. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Ministry has suggested the Government for a further price hike in petroleum products to meet the burgeoning oil pool deficit;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTO KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Steps have already been taken to contain the oil pool deficit as also for gradual liquidation of the same by issue of Special Bonds to companies and retiring them in a phased manner. The re selling price of Petrol has recently been increased account of additional Excise duty imposed in the Finar Budget, 1998-99 for augmenting the corpus of Natio Highways Authority of India. The revised retail selling price of Petrol (MS-87) in the four metros effective 3.6.98 are follows:

	Rs./Litre
Delhi	23.94
Calcutta	24.70
Mumbai	27.07
Chennai	28.14

**Caste Column In Census**

1979. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to insist upon a caste column to be mentioned in the coming census;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish the system of filling the caste column at the time of admission to a school with a view to achieve the goal of national integration and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. ADVANI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to amend the existing system in the schools under the Government of India which is as follows: The Navodaya Vidyalayas provide for SC/ST OBC column in the admission form. The Kendriya Vidyalayas provide for SC/ST column in the admission form.

**Welfare of Mica Mining Workers**

1980. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the collection of cess of Mica since inception of the cess;