

three doses of oral polio vaccine will be adequate for immunisation;

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

(c) the total amount so far spent on polio vaccine; and

(d) whether it is a fact that according to Dr. Jacob John Professor and Head of Virology and Microbiology at the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, poliomyelitis should have been eliminated more than a decade ago at a fraction of the cost spent, had India indulged in more self-reliance?

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

(b) Although vaccine failure is a known problem arising from differential uptake of the polio vaccine and loss of potency due to temporary cold chain failure or other reasons, the Government does not agree that the high incidence of polio during the 80s was on account of the adoption of the three doses strategy. The three doses strategy was based on the advance of the technical leadership and the experts in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the relevant time. This strategy was also consistent with the one adopted generally by the developing countries around the world.

(c) Since 1990-91 to 1997-98 the amount spent on OPV procurement is about Rs 190 crore from the domestic budget. An additional amount of Rs. 87 crore has been spent for local procurement of OPV for Pulse Polio Immunisation supported by external assistance. UNICEF has provided oral polio vaccine costing US\$ 48.58 million since 1987. In addition, commodity assistance towards vaccine procurement was available from the Government of Denmark and Japan for Pulse Polio Immunisation amounting to about US\$ 18 million during the period 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(d) No, Sir. The National Immunisation schedule was adopted after consultation at the National level with the experts and state level programme officers, epidemiologists and Indian Academy of Pediatricians and is a globally proven strategy.

Pay Perks of Service Doctors

1993. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pay-scales, perks and promotional avenues of service doctors and professionals in private Hospitals in comparison to other developed and Asian countries;

(b) the reasons for Indian doctors in Government hospitals and professionals in private hospitals being poorly paid and neglected;

(c) whether non-practising allowance (NPA) as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission is being paid to the Government doctors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government is this regard; and

(f) the time by which NPA is likely to be paid to these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Information about Pay Scales, perks and promotional avenues of Doctors and professionals working in private Hospitals is not maintained by the Government.

(b) The Pay and other Allowances paid to the Doctors belonging to Central Health Services are significantly higher than that of other similarly placed officers of equal status under the Government. Central Health Service Doctors also receive Conveyance Allowance, Research Pursuit Allowance, and Post Graduate Allowance as applicable.

(c) to (f) Non-Practising Allowance as recommended by 5th Central Pay Commission has been granted recently to Central Health Service Doctors.

Diversion of Wheat to Flour Mills in Karnataka

1994. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15,000 metric tonnes of wheat meant for Public Distribution System is being diverted to Roller Flour Mills in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given permission to the State to divert one third of its quota of wheat to the mills; and

(c) if not the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this practice in the State in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The scheme of custom milling of PDS wheat by Roller Flour Mills under which State Governments were allowed to get the PDS wheat converted into Maida/Suji/Resultant atta, has been discontinued with effect from 11.12.97. However, on demand, State Governments are allowed to get a specific quantity of wheat converted into atta and sell it through PDS outlets and also to get it custom milled into maida/suji etc. No additional allocation is made to the State Governments for this purpose. No complaint has been received so far that 15,000 MT of PDS wheat is being diverted by the Government of Karnataka to the Roller Flour Mills.

Dogri Language

1995. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Dogri Language in the VIII schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to constitute a High Powered Body for evolving criteria for inclusion of any or more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Amendment in Pension Scheme

1996. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Employees Pension Scheme 1995 including payment of Gratuity Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the criteria for calculating pension;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the eligibility for pension to 30 years from 33 years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the scheme likely to be reviewed after every two years instead of three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) A bill to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 so as to enhance the ceiling on maximum amount of gratuity from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh is presently pending before the Parliament. Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 the employee becomes eligible for pension after completing 10 years; contributory service. Under the scheme, there is a provision for valuation of the pension fund and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. As such the question of reduction in the eligibility condition from 33 years to 30 years' service and review of the scheme after every two years does not arise. As regards amendment in the pension scheme the same is an ongoing process and will be made as and when considered necessary.

Social Justice to the Backward Classes

1997. SHRI K. P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Welfare Ministry is being renamed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to provide social justice to the backward classes besides SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Ministry of Welfare has been renamed as "Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment" (Samajik Nyaya Aur Adhikarita Mantralaya).

(b) The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes are still suffering from historical disabilities and they want social justice and empowerment, and not mere welfare. The decision to rename the Ministry is guided by a stronger commitment on the part of Government to the values of equality and socio-economic liberation than is conveyed by the concept of welfare.

(c) The Central Government has provided 27% reservation in vacancies in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India in favour of Other Backward Classes from 8th September, 1993, subject to the exclusion of socially and economically advanced persons/section known as "Creamy Layer." In order to promote the economic development of OBCs, the Central Government has set up a National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for providing institutional credit for viable self-employment units. The additional steps proposed by Government to provide social justice to the backward classes, besides SCs and STs, include;

(i) Reservation to OBCs in Educational and Technical Institutions;

(ii) Introduction of various schemes for the educational and social development of OBCs; and

(iii) Inclusion of more castes/communities in the Central list of OBCs on the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes.

Pending Anti-Dowry Cases

1998. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anti-dowry cases pending in the court in Delhi alongwith the number of such cases under investigation;

(b) whether a large number of women are misusing the anti-dowry provision to harass their husbands and their relatives;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to make suitable amendments in I.P.C. so as to protect the innocent persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Delhi Police have informed that there are 6586 anti-dowry cases pending trial in the Courts in Delhi. The number of such cases under investigation is 900.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.