

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;