

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4. Indent/Contract/Purchases								
(i) Normal Contract/ purchase	Upto Rs. 2.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.
(ii) Negotiated/Single Tender Contract	Upto Rs. 0.80 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.00 crs.
(iii) Indent for stores of proprietary nature	Upto Rs. 0.40 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.60 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.60 crs.
(iv) Direct purchase on grounds of emergency	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.50 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.50 crs.

Provident Fund Scheme

1987. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objections/representations submitted by various Labour Unions against the Government proposal to privatise the Provident Fund, pension and health insurance schemes for workers; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise the Employees, State Insurance Scheme and Provident Fund/Pension Schemes being administered by the ESI Corporation and the EPF Organisation respectively. As such the question of the Labour Unions representing against the proposal and reaction of the Government thereon does not arise.

Indo Oman Project

1988. SHRIMATISURYAKANTAPATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Oman has 50% stake 100% control fertilizer scam" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated March 20, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the allegations made in regard to the Indo-Oman joint venture fertilizer project, in the article captioned "Oman has 50% stake 100% control", which was published in the 'Pioneer' of March 29, 1998. The relevant facts in this regard are given below.

The joint venture fertilizer project in Oman has been conceived on the basis of mutual advantage. Prior to the registration of a joint venture company (JVC) in February 1998, all decisions relating to the joint venture project were taken by the Joint Management Committee (JMC), which

had equal representation from the Indian and Omani sides. Since then, all the decisions relating to the joint venture project are being taken by the board of the JVC, which also has equal representation from the two sides.

The selection of the consortium of M/s. Snam Progetti and Technip as the preferred bidder for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for the project was made in February 1997 by the JMC after following an elaborate international competitive bidding procedure. The evaluation was based on objective criteria and was carried out with the help of independent technical and financial advisers.

Aggrieved by this decision, KRUPP-UHDE (UHDE), which was the second lowest bidder, represented to Government of India, seeking revaluation of the bids. On consideration of the matter, Government did not find any occasion to interfere with the decision of the JMC and UHDE was advised accordingly in April 1997. UHDE, however, persisted with its representations. In the interest of ensuring total transparency, the matter was eventually referred to the JMC for consideration. The JMC examined the representation of UHDE in September 1997 and concluded that there was no ground to revise its earlier decision.

Government approval for the investment by the Indian Joint Venture partners in the project was accorded in December 1997 after full consideration of all the aspects relating to the selection of the preferred EPC bidder and other relevant facts.

Central Assistance to Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore

1989. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for Central assistance for the construction of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore had submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister of India on 2.12.1996 requesting for release of Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 10 crore for completing their new Institute of Cardiology Complex Project at Bangalore.

(c) 'Health' being a State subject, there is no scheme of the Central Government to provide financial assistance for creation of facilities in State or private run hospitals.

Food Value

1990. SHRI HARINPATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the food value/calorie requirement for a normal individual and per capita calories available to an ordinary citizen;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper food during pregnancy, a large number of Indian infants are born rickety and blind; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The recommended Calorie requirement for a moderate working Adult Man and Women is 2875 K. Calories and 2225 K. Calories respectively. The average net availability of energy at physiological level is 2400 K. Calories per person per day.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Rickets and Blindness at Birth which could be attributable to severe Maternal Malnutrition with respect to Vitamin D and A respectively during Pregnancy are extremely rare.

Hepatitis-B Virus Infection

1991. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the views of the specialists about the Hepatitis-B Virus (HBV) infection which is more serious than the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV);

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that Chairman of the Global Hepatitis-B Immunisation has pointed out that while 367 AIDS patients have so far died due to liver complications triggered off by HBV and 50 million people in India are carriers of Hepatitis-B and C;

(c) if so, the total number of carriers of TB, HIV, AIDS, HBV and other infectious diseases in the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No authentic data is available of the number of deaths caused by Hepatitis-B infection alone. However, according to available data, the number of cases of Viral Hepatitis (all types) during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (provisional is as follows:

Year	No. of persons infected	No. of person died
1995	98940	943
1996	117954	801
1997	89038	962

(c) Available data indicates that about 3-5% of the population of India are carriers of Hepatitis-B infection. As against this, 14 million people are estimated to be suffering from active Tuberculosis. As per the HIV Sero Surveillance Report upto 30.4.98 out of 3310868 persons screened, 76481 persons tested sero positive. Total AIDS cases reported in India were 5209.

(d) The following measures have been taken, to check Hepatitis-B infections:

- (i) It is mandatory to screen all Blood Donations for Hepatitis-B Virus, before transfusion.
- (ii) Efforts are being made, to promote safe sex behaviours under the National AIDS Control Programme. The routes of transmission for both diseases are the same.
- (iii) Provision of separate syringe and separate needle for each vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Programme.
- (iv) It has been decided to immunize Hospital workers of Central Govt. Hospitals against Hepatitis-B.
- (v) Guidelines have been issued for the use of a separate sterile syringe, and needle for each injection and aseptic surgical intervention.
- (vi) Health Education.

Vaccine Failure

1992. SHRI SUBRATA MAKHERJEE :
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news appeared in the 'Hindu' dated February 21, 1998 that an estimated one million children have developed "vaccine failure" polio in India during the eighties as a result of the Union Government adhering to the WHO norms that