

years. It has reported a provisional loss of Rs. 78.99 crore for the six months period from April to October, 1998. FACT has initiated action to various fronts including seeking interest concessions, rescheduling of principal for Ammonia Replacement Project from the Government of India besides reducing costs, improving productivity with a view to stay profitable.

#### Opening of Health Insurances Sector

428. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Health care system is collapsing in India' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated September 22, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to examine the existing health care system in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to open health insurances sector for foreign insurance companies; and

(e) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be available?

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

(b) and (c) Health is a State subject under the Constitution and several State Governments e.g. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, West Bengal, Orissa, are implementing projects aimed at renovating and upgrading the State Health Systems particularly in the area of improving management maintenance of buildings, deployment of manpower, supply of essential equipments, drugs and consumables.

(d) and (e) A legislation is to be introduced in the Winter Session of the Parliament enabling the insurance sector to be opened to private Indian companies including joint venture companies. These companies may conduct business in any of the sectors including the health sector.

[Translation]

#### Recognition of Medical College, Kota (Rajasthan)

429. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a medical college has been set up at Kota in 1992;

(b) the dates on which inspection team was sent by Medical Council of India for giving recognition to this medical college and the shortcomings mentioned by this team in its report;

(c) the contents of the report submitted by the inspection team after conducting inspection;

(d) whether the Kota Medical College has not been recognised so far in spite of favourable report submitted by the inspector, MCI;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which this college is likely to be recognised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes. The Institute was started by State Government of Rajasthan in the academic year 1991-92.

(b) and (c) The first inspection of the Medical College at Kota was carried by Medical Council of India in July, 1995 and second inspection on 4-5th November, 1997 and the last inspection was conducted on 18-19th November, 1997.

(d) to (f) The Medical Council of India at its meeting held on 29.10.98 considering the inspection reports has approved the Government Medical College, Kota for 50 annual admissions.

[English]

#### Domestic LPG in Motor Cars

430. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of motor cars are being driven with domestic LPG cylinders in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Gas consultants/agencies have been permitted to use LPG cylinders to motor vehicles; and

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the users of domestic LPG in their vehicles in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH