

tion process the AIDS virus got destroyed.

(iii) During 1981-85, many blood products including vaccines prepared in USA and Europe, found positive for HIV antibodies, were administered to many patients. A large number of these were administered to many patients in Europe. A large number of them were traced and tested. None of them had shown any features of AIDS infection.

(iv) Though the vaccine was derived from the blood of persons infected with AIDS virus, there is no cause of panic because this vaccine is not likely to transmit AIDS virus infection. In future steps must be taken to ensure stringent quality control so that only clean blood from healthy persons is used for manufacturing blood products.

The Commissioner of Food and Drug Administration, Maharashtra, has drawn attention to the various technical issues raised by M/s Bharat Serum and Vaccines Private Limited. These relate primarily to the suitability or unsuitability of ELISA and Western Blot Tests for testing the final blood products for HIV anti-bodies and the inactivation of AIDS virus, in the process of manufacturing anti-D Immunoglobulin.

The arguments by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration, have to be considered in the light of the following:

- (i) It is understood that the ethanol fractionation process for manufacturing anti-D Immunoglobulin inactivates the AIDS virus. However, this process is not followed by M/s Bharat Serum and Vaccine Private Limited.
- (ii) If EIA test for antigen gave a positive result, one can positively conclude that the product

has AIDS virus. However, the reverse is not true because a very low quantity of the virus in the products as a result of dilution may sometime remain undetected through testing.

- (iii) In USA and Europe, testing of blood used for manufacturing of blood products, has been of high order. In case of M/s Bharat Serum and Vaccine Pvt. Ltd. and some other local manufacturers, attempts were made to locate and retest the blood donors whose blood was used for manufacturing anti-D Immunoglobulin. The blood of many such donors has been found to be positive for HIV anti-bodies.

Considering the various aspects of the matter, the Experts meeting on 6-3-89 came to the conclusion that, as a matter of abundant caution and considering that each bleeding was not specifically tested for HIV anti-bodies and many donors are found sero-positive now, the products, which have been withheld from distribution, should be destroyed.

Survey of Teak Growing Areas

*297. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a comprehensive survey of the teak growing areas in the North Eastern region, particularly on the Manipur Burma border;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether any time-bound programme is proposed to be formulated to protect and nurture the teakwood trees in the Manipur Burma border areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No comprehensive survey of teak growing areas of the North Eastern region, particularly the Manipur-Burma border has been made so far

(c) and (d). There is no proposal from the Government of Manipur regarding formulation of a time-bound programme for protection and nurturing of teak wood in the Manipur-Burma border areas. The State forest department is responsible for protection and nurturing of the forest lands.

Illegal Trade in Skins and Bones of Wild Animals

*298. **SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a flourishing business in skins and bones of the wild animals in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to put an end to this trade; and

(c) the number of persons, State-wise, arrested during the last 12 months indulging in this illegal trade and how does it compare with the arrests made during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Occasional cases of illegal trade in skins and bones of wild animals are detected.

(b) Major steps taken to put curbs on this trade are as follows:—

(i) Regulation of hunting and trade of wild animals is provided for

under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) International trade in respect of wild animals and products derived therefrom, is strictly regulated with reference to provisions given in Export Policy and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES).

(iii) The Wildlife Division under Government of India has been suitably strengthened by creation of 4 regional and 3 sub-regional offices.

(iv) Assistance is provided to state Governments under a centrally sponsored scheme for development of infrastructure to apprehend poachers and illicit traders.

(v) Scheme of cash rewards for providing intelligence about poachers and illegal traders has been introduced.

(vi) Better coordination has been established at the State level between police and wildlife officials and at the Centre with officials of Custom Department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(c) State-wise information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Ban on Smoking In Indoor Work Places

*300. **SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that