

(b) if so, the steps taken to popularise the cultivation of this plant?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) Survey of Medicinal Plants and Collection Unit, Ooty under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy during a survey tour in 1982-83 was able to locate and collect *Cineraria Maritima*, supposed to be an exotic plant in the Nilgiri region of Tamil Nadu.

(b) No specific scheme has been drawn up by the Council to popularise cultivation of this plant.

[*Translation*]

News Item Captioned "Shishyon Mein Phailta Rog Thalassemia"

2592. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn in the news item appearing in the *Dainik Hindustan* dated 20 January, 1990 under caption "Shishyon Mein Phailta Rog Thalassemia":

(b) if so, the number of children in the country affected by this disease; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cure them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) and (b). Yes, the Government has seen the news item. A study was carried by Indian Council of Medical Research on Thalassaemic gene frequency in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. It was found that the incidence of beta-thalassaemia trait (heterozygous) was 2.7% in Bombay, 5.5%

in Delhi and 10.4% in Calcutta. This shows that the thalassaemic gene frequency varies in different population and regions. Overall estimates of Thalassaemic gene frequency in India cannot be made precisely but would be in the range of 2-5%. The estimate that about 5000 children with thalassaemia major (homozygous beta-thalassaemia) are born every year, could be realistic.

(c) The NDMC Hospital in association with the Indian Red Cross Society is providing blood transfusion facility for these patients, for adequate therapy, following measures are necessary:

- (i) Regular blood transfusion under specialists, trained for management of thalassaemia and attached to hospitals where diagnostic facilities are available.
- (ii) The blood transfusion should be leukocytic-free.
- (iii) Maintain H6 at appropriate level.
- (iv) Regular chelation using a syringe pumps for removal of excess iron.

[*English*]

Storage of Rain Water for Useful Purposes

2593. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to collect and store surplus rain water for useful purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?