

Conference on Health and Dietary Habits

3445. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a conference on Health and Dietary Habits was held recently in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A one Day National Congress on Health and Dietary Fats was held on 29th October, 1996 in New Delhi.

(b) Human Nutrition Unit, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in collaboration with seven national scientific organisations organised a "National Congress on Health and Dietary Fats".

The objective of this congress was to orient the academicians, scientists, health planners, administrators, nutritionists, dieticians, physicians in different parts of the country amount (i) the status of availability of dietary fats in India (ii) strategies for bridging the gap between production and requirements of dietary fats (iii) the Government of India's efforts to improve production of dietary fats, (iv) review scientific studies conducted in India and abroad on palm oil and its health effects, (v) utility of crude palm oil in prevention of vitamin A deficiency amongst children, and (vi) to disseminate correct nutrition information on palm oil.

The scientific programme of the congress ensured that all the delegates received the latest scientific information on the mentioned objectives during the congress.

(c) The details proceedings and recommendations of the Congress are awaited.

Shortage of Platelets Concentrate

3446. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the Government and Semi-Government Hospitals and Blood Banks being run in Delhi and New Delhi do not have the facility to extract platelets concentrate, a life saving fresh blood derivative;
- (b) whether shortage of platelets concentrate has been the cause of many avoidable dengue fever deaths; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The blood banks functioning at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Armed Forces

Hospital, G.T.B. Hospital and Indian Red Cross Society are having facility to produce platelet concentrate.

(b) and (c). Deaths were attributed to suspected dengue/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever in Delhi, Haryana and other parts of the country during Sept. to November, 1996.

There was no shortage of platelets concentrate during this period.

Government took the following important measures to control the situation :

- (i) Immediate establishment of systems for the daily reporting of cases and deaths from all major public and private hospitals;
- (ii) alerting the State Govts. and in particular Delhi Government of measures to be taken for detection of cases, anti-larval operations, fogging, intensification of health education activities and clinical management of patients;
- (iii) augmentation of blood component separation facilities in major hospitals and the Indian Red Cross Society;
- (iv) supply of all commodities like Pyrethrum extract, malathion, fogging machines.

As a long term measure, preparation of a Contingency Plan for vector borne diseases including Dengue, has been taken up for being provided to the State Governments highlighting endemic areas and specific locations requiring attention from the points of view of prevention, spraying during transmission period and treatment.

[Translation]

Computer Education at Middle School Level

3447. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are paying special attention on Computer Education at middle school level;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;
- (c) the number of middle schools of Gujarat where computer education has been proposed and approved; and
- (d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard in the said State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools', only Government/Government aided Senior Secondary Schools are eligible to receive Central assistance for supply of computers and software. Middle level schools are not covered under the scheme.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.