

& Pharmaceuticals as per details given below:

Year	1997-98	1996-97	1995-96
Items	Drug Kit A	Drug Kit A	Nil
No. of Items	39,272	25,910	Nil
Rate/Unit (Rs.)	428.48	1735.00	Nil
Total value of orders (Rs.)	16827266.56	46752004.00	Nil

[*Translation*]

#### Allowance for Family Norms

1396. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities being provided by the Government to its officials for maintaining small family;

(b) the details of recommendations made by the Fifth Pay Commission regarding fixation of personal pay of those Government officials who were getting one or two increments as personal pay under this scheme prior to the implementation of the fifth pay commission report;

(c) whether the Union Government have accepted these recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the personal pay of the State Government officials would be fixed on joining the equivalent post under the Union Government despite his pay scale and rate of increment being different?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Central employees are entitled to one increment, in the form of special pay, for undergoing sterilisation upto three children, as also a rebate in interest on House Building Advance and Special Casual Leave.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### Artificial Limb Equipment

1397. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for Artificial Limb Equipment Distribution Scheme from various districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) We have received proposals from 22 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) As per guidelines of the scheme the organisations are required to submit copy of Registration Certificate Memorandum of Association, Budget-Estimate, List of Identified beneficiaries, Audited Accounts for last one year etc. 7 districts have already been sanctioned Grant-in-aid under ADIP Scheme. Since proposals from the remaining districts lack necessary documents, the same will be cleared as soon as these districts submit the required documents.

[*English*]

#### Militants in J&K

1398. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US trained militants helping ISI in J&K" appearing in "Times of India" dated October 30, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to check militancy in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports in this regard. Government have consistently brought to the attention of the international community, Pakistan's active involvement in the instigation and sponsorship of terrorism against India, particularly in J&K, which has been widely acknowledged by international public opinion.

(c) With a view to tackle the militancy problem, sponsored from across the border, in Jammu & Kashmir, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes *inter-alia* strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them in hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development programmes, deepening the democratic process etc.

[Translation]

**Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995**

1399. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to effectively implement the Persons with disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The implementation of the provisions of the Act require a multi-sectoral collaborative approach of all concerned Ministries of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments and other appropriate authorities. While in the area of prevention, early detection and intervention, Ministry of Health &

Family Welfare and Department of Women & Child Development have to play a major role, in the area of education of children with disabilities, Department of Education has to integrate these programmes within their schemes/programmes. For the creation of barrier free environment, the Ministries of Urban Areas and Employment, Surface Transport, Railways and Civil Aviation have to take various positive steps. In the area of employment and training, Ministry of Labour has an important role. Appropriate Governments are to ensure the implementation of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 by making necessary institutional arrangements and implementing various programmes for the people with disabilities within the limits of their economic capacity and development. In order to effectively implement the provisions of the Act, the following measures have been taken by the Ministry:—

(a) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24.10.97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(b) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took two meetings so far.

(d) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been appointed and he has assumed the office w.e.f. 1.9.98.

(e) Five Core Groups of experts and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes to give effect to various provisions of the Act.

(f) Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(g) National Trust for Welfare of Handicapped is proposed to be set up.

(h) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power development in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.