

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said case has been referred to National Human Rights Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K.ADVANI) : (a) to (e) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pre-Medical Test for Admission to Colleges

4989. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has decided to conduct centralised pre-medical test for admission to various medical colleges before the current academic session;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the wide-spread resentment among students;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any direction to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per information received from the Govt. of Maharashtra, pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court in W.P. No. 649/97 Ravindra Kumar Rai Vs. State of Maharashtra & Ors., it has become mandatory for the Govt. of Maharashtra to hold Pre Medical Test for medical admissions from the year 1998 onwards.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Supreme Court of India in W.P. No. 607 of 1992 Unni Krishnan J.P. Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh has, inter-alia, held that "atleast, 50% of the Seats in every Private Professional Colleges shall be filled by the nominees of the Government or University, as the case may be, which will be called 'free seats'. These Students shall be selected on the basis of

merit, determined on the basis of a Common Entrance Examination, where it is held or in the absence of an entrance examination, by such criteria as may be determined by the competent authority or the appropriate authority, as the case may be. It is, however, desirable and appropriate to have a Common Entrance Examination for regulating admissions to these Colleges/Institutions, as is done in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Children Hospitalised due to Food Poisoning

4990. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than hundred children of Arya Samaj Orphanage in Jama Masjid, Delhi were hospitalised due to food poisoning in June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Union Government to compensate the affected persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) "Arya Bal Graha" popularly known as "Arya Orphanage" is an institute registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1660 and has also been granted licence under the Women and Children Institutions (Licensing) Act, 1956 for the purpose of running a home for the destitutes. The Secretary of the said Institute is reported to have informed the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi that consequent upon consuming stale rice on the 6th June, 1998, 95 children amongst the inmates of the "Home" fell sick and complained for vomiting. The sick children were removed to the hospital on the same date from where they were discharged on the 8th June, 1998. The incident is reported to have occurred as a result of negligence of the kitchen supervisor who had not examined the rice before distributing it to the inmates. She was promptly transferred by the Institute authorities. There is, however, no proposal under the consideration of the Central Government for payment of any compensation to the affected persons.