

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) AIIMS, New Delhi, PGI, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Pondicherry have increased the Hospital Charges. However, there is provision for exemption of Hospital Charges for the genuine indigent patients in AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh. JIPMER, Pondicherry provides free treatment to all patients whose income is below Rs. 2,500/- per month.

(c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

(d) The Government is committed to provide better medical facilities to the general public. The Central Government has also set up a National Illness Assistance Fund and formulated guidelines to provide financial assistance for medical treatment of patients, living below poverty line and suffering from major life threatening diseases. All States/UTs have similarly been advised to set up Illness Assistance Fund. It has also been decided that grant-in-aid from Central Government would be released to each of these State/UTs where Funds are set up on the lines advised to them.

[Translation]

Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme

930. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have finalised the Scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The details of the scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya are being firmed up for obtaining the necessary Governmental clearances.

[English]

Investment By U.N.P.F.

931. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations Population Fund has offered to invest in a comprehensive population programme including reproductive health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the priorities set by the National Programme would support the integrated population and development projects at district levels in the States; and

(d) if so, the names of the States likely to be benefitted under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is expected to provide an assistance to the tune of US \$100 million to India during its County Programme Cycle-V (1997-2001) for projects/programmes in the areas of Reproductive Health, Population and Development Strategies, and Advocacy.

(c) and (d) Integrated Population and Development (IPD) Projects are proposed to be taken up in selected districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

Appointment of Chemists

932. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directives to O.N.G.C. Dehradun for the appointment of Chemists on the reserved posts on the basis of writ petition (Civil) No. 860, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether O.N.G.C. has implemented the directives of the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard and the time by which these reserved posts are likely to be filled up by O.N.G.C. Dehradun ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In connection with writ petition (Civil) No. 860/96, the Supreme Court had issued directives on 22.9.1997 to ONGC Ltd. to consider the suitability of the petitioners for appointment on two available vacancies of Chemists and if they are found suitable, they may be given appointment against these vacancies and that ONGC Ltd. shall give relaxation in the matter of age to the petitioners for the purpose of such consideration.