

ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Non-official members of the Special Audit Team recommended sanction of pension in about 800 cases which had been rejected earlier. Their recommendations were based, inter alia, on their personal knowledge and liberal interpretation of the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. In certain cases they also gave the benefit of doubt to the applicants. Pension has so far been sanctioned in 650 cases recommended by them. In 50 cases it has not been found possible to accept their recommendations. The remaining cases have been taken up with the concerned State Governments/applicants.

#### Import of Wheat from Australia

439. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether storage facilities were considered before deciding to import wheat from Australia;

(b) if so, the reasons for lying imported wheat on ports; and

(c) the steps taken to lift wheat from the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No imported wheat is lying at the ports.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Reply to MPs Letters

440. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to the District Magistrates, Police Superintendents and Home Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh restricting them not to reply the letters from MPs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make it obligatory to reply the letters received from MPs?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Clear guidelines have been prescribed in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure regarding prompt action to be taken in connection with communications received from the Members of Parliament. Attention of the State Governments has been drawn to these guidelines with the request to issue suitable instructions to all the offices and Public Undertakings under their control.

[English]

#### Drug Price Control Order

441. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to reduce and further rationalise the list of drug under Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) in tune with the general policy of liberalisation retaining about 15 drugs under DPCO for regulating prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of representations received in this regard; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) After promulgation of Drugs (Prices Control Order on the 6th January, 1995, the Government received several representations against inclusion of certain drugs under price control which were disposed off as per the notified criterion in the "Modified Drug Policy, 1986" of 1994.

#### Vacant Posts in Delhi Police

442. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY' :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of key posts in Delhi Police are lying vacant resulting in the increase of crimes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the said vacancies are lying vacant alongwith the number of vacancies; and

(c) the time by which the lying vacancies are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Abnormal Deliveries

443. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 per cent abnormal deliveries cause epilepsies in the newly born babies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ayurvedic treatment achieved 95% success in curing this disease; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote Ayurvedic treatment for the said disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Epilepsy is caused by several conditions including trauma suffered by the newborn during abnormal deliveries. The exact proportion of cases of epilepsy caused due to abnormal deliveries is not available.

(c) and (d) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha has developed a drug code named 'Ayush-56' which has shown promising results in the treatment of epilepsy. The drug has been patented by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and commercialised through the National Research Development Corporation. It is being manufactured by a number of private pharmaceutical firms.

[Translation]

#### Petrol Pumps in H.P.

444. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

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

(a) whether there are no adequate facilities for setting up LPG agencies, petrol and diesel pumps in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and the petrol pumps are only available in the selected cities of the States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have re-

ceived any proposal from the local M.Ps for setting up of petrol pumps in far flung areas of the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Requests are received from time to time from MPs/VIPs for setting up Petrol Pumps and LPG distributorships, in different areas. As per existing policy, retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships are opened at different places in the country including hilly areas of U.P. and Himachal Pradesh, subject to the feasibility and economic viability of the location. Accordingly, viable locations are included in the marketing plans for appointment of dealers/distributors under normal selection procedure of issue of advertisement and selection through the Dealer Selection Board. In addition to the above, in order to conserve forests in hilly areas of UP and Himachal Pradesh, large number of LPG distributorships and extension points have been allotted direct to the State Government undertakings.

#### Increase in Facilities for Patients in AIIMS

445. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients admitted, treated and surgical operations operated upon daily in AIIMS and the number of patients get deprived of these facilities;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the information collected from the patients in the said hospital;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made so far to increase the facilities for patients in the said hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The number of patients admitted, treated and surgical operations operated daily during the year 1997-98 in the Institute are 6326, 344 and 352 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.