

1	2	3	4	5
16. Kerala		1081	8986	10067
17. Lakshadweep UT		0	0	0
18. Madhya Pradesh		11242	3567	14809
19. Maharashtra		1031	20302	21333
20. Manipur		0	589	589
21. Meghalaya		246	3636	3882
22. Mizoram		0	0	0
23. Nagaland				
24. Orissa		23761	19146	215222
25. Pondicherry U.T.		0	617	617
26. Punjab		91	3523	3614
27. Rajasthan		3026	5064	8090
28. Sikkim		0	Yet to be finalised	0
29. Tamil Nadu		9493	8828	18321
30. Tripura		11	264	275
31. Uttar Pradesh		15105	18043	33148
32. West Bengal		254	15792	16046
<b>Total (Provisional)</b>		<b>126665</b>	<b>428305</b>	<b>554970</b>

[Translation]

**Cataract Patients**

\*190. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cataract patients is increasing continuously in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of patients suffering from this disease annually particularly upto March 31, 1998;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to eradicate this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) There is an increase in the numbers of Cataract Patients due to the increase of elderly population as Cataract is a degenerative disease that affects older age groups.

(b) The annual incidence of Cataract Blindness is estimated to be 20 lakhs.

(c) to (e) Cataract Blindness cannot be eradicated. However, therefore, the Government launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in 1976 as 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of reducing its prevalence level from 1.49% to 0.3% of the population by 2000 AD. Under the programme, Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology, medical colleges, district hospitals and block level primary health care centres were up-graded/strengthened; and provision made for extending technical training to the staff and supply of equipments and consumables to them.

With a view to remove the heavy backlog of persons suffering from cataract blindness a project with credit secured from World Bank is being implemented in States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which have shown levels of blindness higher than the national average. The assistance provided to States under the project, includes equipment support, construction of eye wards/operation theatres, training of eye surgeons in Intraocular lens implantation and mobilising support of the voluntary organisations etc. Since the launching of this project, the budgetary allocations for the programme have increased to Rs. 75 crores during the current year from Rs. 20 crores prior to 1994 and annual cataract surgeries performed has increased from 19.13 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

[English]

**Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited**

\*191. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases in respect of which the Disinvestment Commission has suggested disinvestment of shares so far;

(b) the number of cases in which final decision has been taken together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended disinvestment of 51 per cent in Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT);

(d) whether a delegation of employees of FACT met the Minister and urged him not to accept the recommendations made by the said Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) The Disinvestment Commission has suggested disinvestment of government equity in five public sector undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. These public sector undertakings are (1) Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); (2) Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited (PPCL); (3) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT); (4) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL); and (5) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL).

(b) On economic considerations, it has been decided to take appropriate steps for sale of 50% of the shares of Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission for disinvestment of government equity in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) are being examined.

#### Import of Blood

\*192. SHRI P. UPENDRA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of blood in hospitals and in various Blood Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of total shortage of blood indicating the annual requirement of blood;

(c) whether the Government propose to import blood;

(d) if so, the main reasons for importing blood and the total quantity likely to be imported, country-wise;

(e) the total amount involved therein; and

(f) the precautions taken by the Government to avoid the risk of HIV contamination in the imported blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Though there is occasional and seasonal shortage of Blood in some Hospitals and Blood Banks in the country, overall there is no reported serious shortage.

(b) The requirement of Blood as per WHO norms of 7 units of Blood per Hospital Bed per annum is about 42.00 lakh units. As against this, the availability of blood is 30.39 lakh units. Both these figures are based on the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence Report of 1987-89.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### Multipurpose Identity Card

\*193. SHRI C.D. GAMIT:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue multi-purpose identity cards to all adult citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the reasons and the necessity thereof and also the purpose for which the card is likely to be used;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the State Governments in the matter;

(d) if so, the details of the reaction of the State Governments in this regard;

(e) the expenditure involved in issuing the Identity Cards to the citizens and whether any portion of the same is likely to be borne by the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) The proposal is to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help in easy identification of persons to check illegal immigration and infiltration and to trace criminals and subversives. These Cards will also be used for the purposes of issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

The Central Election Commission and some State Governments had earlier emphasized the need for National Identity Cards. The details of expenditure to be incurred on the scheme are being worked out. It is proposed that the expenditure be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments. The State Governments will be consulted in finalising the scheme. Its implementation will be taken up then after a central legislation for the purpose has been enacted.

#### Cancer Prone Areas

\*194. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of Oral Cancer has been increasing in some parts of the country;