

ment will not hesitate to import sugar.

Ban of Use of Sweetner

10150. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a direct relationship between aspartame and severe mental illness and other health hazards;

(b) whether this artificial sweetner is widely used in India, if so, what are the producers and companies using it; and

(c) in view of the danger, whether Government propose to put a ban on use of this item in foods and drinks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) Governments attention has been drawn to a news item alleging mental illness and other health hazards caused as a result of consumption of Aspartame. As per information made available by Food and Drug Administration, Washingto, U.S.A., the Centre for Disease Control has completed an evaluation of Aspartame. The data generated by the Centre do not provide evidence for the existence of various widespread adverse health consequences attendant to use of Aspartame.

(b) and (c). Under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, Aspartame is permitted to be marketed only as table top sweetener with appropriate label declarations. Its use in any food and drink is not permitted.

Primary Health Centres

10151. SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the 30 districts in the country which have the lowest number of functioning primary health centres;

(b) the number of centres in each district;

(c) whether Government propose to bring those districts at par with national average; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) and (b). District-wise number of functioning Primary Health Centres is not monitored by the Govt. of India. Opening of Primary health Centres comes under state sector minimum needs programme. State Governments are required to open PHCs in each District on population norm basis, for every 30,000 population in plain area and 20,000 population in hilly and backward area.

(c) and (d). All the State Government have been advised by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of health as well, to ensure that there should be no imbalance/shortage of P.H.C.s in each District which are required to be established on population norm basis.

20442 Primary Health Centres are functioning as per date available on 31.3.90 in the country.

[*Trarlslation*]

Hostels for ST Boys and Girls in Bihar

10152. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to build more hostels for boys and girls