

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d). As per directions of the Supreme Court, all the concerned States/Union Territories, except Jammu & Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh, contribute 25% Post Graduate Medical/Dental seats in each medical/dental college or institution, other than private medical/dental colleges, without taking into account any reservation, for All India Entrance Examination in various Post Graduate Medical and Dental Courses, including General Medicine, and such a competitive examination is conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, on all-India basis.

Newsitem Captioned "30000 Kids Get Blind Every Day"

6600. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI R. N. RAKESH:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "30000 kids get blind every day" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 31 March, 1990;

(b) if so, whether the incidence of eye troubles and defective eyesight among children is highest in our country;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt any policy to make aware the mothers about importance of proper nutrition and timely treatment in case of any eye trouble; and

(d) if so, the details of the guidelines issued by Government in this regard?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Under the Maternal and Child Health Programme of this Ministry, there is a scheme of Prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency among children of 1-5 age group for which oral dose of 2 lakh International Units of Vitamin 'A' is given to the above age group of children every six months.

[Translation]

Committee to Solve the Problems Arising on Use of Iodised Salt

6601. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been constituted to solve the problem arisen as a result of obligatory use of iodised salt;

(b) the States in which a ban has been imposed on the sale of common salt;

(c) whether a chemical KIO₃ is used to convert the common salt into iodised salt;

(d) from where this chemical is imported;

(e) whether this chemical is injurious to health and the scientists have declared potassium iodate, a component used in making iodised salt, a poison which is prescribed by doctors to some patients and is useful only to them; and

(f) the reason, why the use of iodised salt has been made obligatory for common people and whether Government propose to

review this matter.

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

(a) No.

(b) The States/UTs which have issued notification banning the salt in their entire State/UTs, are Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Delhi and Dadra & Nagar Havelli.

The States of Andhra Pradesh (3 distts.) Gujarat (3 distts.), Madhya Pradesh (12 distts.), West Bengal (10 distts.), Maharashtra (7 distts.), Orissa (1 distt.), Karnataka (1 distt.) have issued partially ban notification.

(c) Yes.

(d) Potassium Iodate (KIO₃) is not imported. This chemical is manufactured locally after importing iodine from Japan.

(e) The dosage of Potassium Iodate being used for iodisation of salt is not injurious to health.

(f) The survey carried out by the Dte. G.H.S., I.C.M.R. and the IIMS have revealed that no region in the country can be considered completely free from goitre and other Iodine deficiency disorders. Iodation of salt is the cheapest and proven method of prevention of Iodine Deficiency disorders. If any specific scientific data regarding adverse effects of consumption of iodised salt in the country is brought to notice of the Government, then the matter could be referred to I. C. M. R. for examination.

[English]

**Non Implementation of Amendments of
PFA Act in States**

6602. SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Adulteration Act amended in 1989 is not being implemented in some states;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the states where the Act is not being implemented; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for its implementation?

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

(a) to (c). The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Act 1986 is being implemented by all the State Governments and Union Territories except Mizoram. Steps have been initiated by the State of Mizoram to implement the Act.

Per Capita Availability of Protein

6603. PROF. P. J. KURIEN Will the
Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL-
FARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of protein in the country ;

(b) the per capita protein availability among the people below poverty line;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan to encourage the protein availability to the people living below poverty line: and