

**Mr. Best** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what information he has to the LD50 level of fluoride ion in animals, specifying the animals involved.

**Mrs. Fenner:** I have been asked to reply.  
I shall reply to my hon. Friend as soon as possible.

### State Pension

**Dr. McDonald** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish in the *Official Report* the costs of increasing the basic state pension by £1 per week for single pensioners and married couples in 1985-86, giving the gross and net full year costs.

**Mr. Whitney:** The full-year cost of raising the basic retirement pension by £1 per week for each person receiving a pension on his or her own insurance—that is with no increase for adult dependants or married women receiving pensions on their husband's insurance—would be £380 million gross, or £280 million net of savings on supplementary benefit and housing benefit.

### Hypothermia

**Mr. Ernie Roberts** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services what is the number of persons who have died due to hypothermia during the last 12 months; and what were the age categories of those persons.

**Mr. John Patten:** The latest available information is shown in the table.

*Number of deaths with mention of hypothermia by sex and age group.  
1 December 1983 to 30 November 1984  
England and Wales*

Age group	Males	Females	Persons
0 to 4	2	2	4
5 to 14	1	—	1
15 to 24	5	1	6
25 to 34	2	2	4
35 to 44	7	3	10
45 to 54	17	10	27
55 to 64	27	21	48
65 to 74	49	54	103
75 to 84	75	143	218
85 and over	38	109	147
All ages	223	345	568

Figures are provisional.

### Blood Products

**Mr. Austin Mitchell** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) what proportion of blood products for use by haemophiliacs at transfusion centres is imported; and what proportion of imported products are used after one year, after two years, after three years, and after more than three years, respectively;

(2) when the heat treatment (protein fractionation) plant for blood products at Elstree will be completed and working.

**Mr. Kenneth Clarke:** For information on the availability of heat-treated blood products, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Bournemouth, West (Mr. Butterfill) on 5 February at column 527. We do not collect information on how long imported products are kept.

### AIDS

**Mr. Austin Mitchell** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services (1) which English regional health authorities have tested blood given by donors for HTLV3 antibodies;

(2) what proportion of HTLV3 tests give false positives (a) in experimental use and (b) in routine use.

**Mr. Kenneth Clarke:** We are co-ordinating the evaluation of tests as they become available to assess which will be most suitable in the National Health Service. An important feature of this evaluation is to assess the reliability of tests in terms of false positives and false negatives. No regional transfusion centre is yet routinely testing blood for the AIDS related virus.

**Mr. Austin Mitchell** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he is satisfied that regional health authorities are pursuing a common policy in regard to the prevention of blood donation by acquired immune deficiency syndrome sufferers.

**Mr. Kenneth Clarke:** Our policy objective is to ensure that would-be donors who are at high risk of contracting AIDS do not give blood. All regional health authorities have been told to issue our leaflet, "AIDS: Important New Advice for Blood Donors", to all existing and would-be donors on an individual basis. We know of no region which is not implementing this policy.

### Limited List Prescribing

**Mr. Kennedy** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will make a statement on the exact nature of the consultations he is having with retail pharmacists over their current stockholding of drugs which will no longer be available on the National Health Service.

**Mr. Kenneth Clarke:** I shall let the hon. Member have a reply as soon as possible.

### Supplementary Benefit

**Dr. McDonald** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish in the *Official Report* (a) the number of young people between 16 and 18 years currently in receipt of supplementary benefit through unemployment and (b) the costs of the payment of the benefit to the young unemployed.

**Mr. Whitney:** The latest estimate of the number of young people aged 16 and 17 years receiving supplementary benefit because of unemployment was 160,000 in December 1983. The amount of supplementary benefit paid to young unemployed people in this age group in the financial year 1983-84 was approximately £185 million.

### Severe Weather Payment

**Mr. Patrick Thompson** asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether the choice of a base line of 15.5 deg. C., in the formula used by the Chief Adjudication Officer for calculation of payment of supplementary benefit for fuel in periods of exceptionally severe weather assumes that this is an adequate temperature for a claimant's home.

**Mr. Whitney:** An outdoor temperature of 15.5 deg. C. is the baseline used by the Meteorological Office from