

The benefits available to the other single parent are withchild benefit of £17.55 and one-parent benefit of £3.65. In addition supplementary benefit would also be available to widows and single parents, subject to the normal rules, if their requirements exceed their resources. The ordinary scale rate for a single householder and three children of the ages given, plus an automatic heating allowance because there is a child under five, is £37.05. The long term rate payable after a year on the ordinary rate is £44.05. Separate additions are payable for any housing costs not covered by Housing Benefit, such as mortgage interest, and additional requirements such as special diets.

Supplementary benefit claimants are entitled to housing benefit which in most cases will cover their full rent and rates. Widows and single parents who are not receiving supplementary benefit may also be entitled to housing benefit, but in these cases the amount of benefit will depend upon their individual circumstances. Other benefits such as free school meals and help with NHS charges are also available to supplementary benefit claimants and to others on low incomes. Working parents with low incomes may be entitled to family income supplement.

Blood Supplies

Mrs. Dunwoody asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will estimate the cost of ensuring that the United Kingdom is self-sufficient in whole blood, factor VIII and other blood products.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke: The United Kingdom is already self-sufficient in whole blood. We are committed to making the United Kingdom self-sufficient in blood products and we have allocated funds for the Blood Products Laboratory to be redeveloped over the next three years at a cost of £21 million.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

Mrs. Dunwoody asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many people have died from acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the United Kingdom; and how many of these people were haemophiliacs.

Mr. John Patten: The communicable disease surveillance centre, in collaboration with microbiologists, clinicians and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, has been undertaking surveillance of acquired immune deficiency syndrome since September 1982. Up to 7 July 1983, five male deaths had been reported, none of which were haemophiliacs.

Postal Votes

Mr. Janner asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether he will institute an inquiry into the circumstances in National Health Service hospitals in Leicester in which patients in hospitals in the city of Leicester who applied for and obtained postal votes forms and filled the same in were not enabled to submit those votes in due time.

Mr. John Patten: I have as yet no information about this matter. I suggest that in the first instance the hon. Member should write to the chairman of the Leicestershire health authority.

Deaf Persons

Mrs. Jill Knight asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will take steps to alleviate the problems for the elderly house-bound deaf caused by the ruling that deaf-aid technicians do not make domiciliary visits to persons whose deaf-aid is faulty.

Mr. Newton: There is no central ruling. It is for health authorities themselves to decide whether such visits are appropriate in the light of local needs and resources.

International Population Conference

Mr. Terry Davis asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether Her Majesty's Government intend to make a contribution towards the cost of the international population conference to be held in Mexico City in August 1984.

Mr. John Patten: The matter is under consideration.

Mr. Terry Davis asked the Secretary of State for Social Services who will represent her Majesty's Government at the international population conference to be held in Mexico City in August 1984.

Mr. John Patten: Representation has not yet been decided.

Mr. Terry Davis asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether Her Majesty's Government have yet received the agenda for the international population conference to be held in Mexico City in August 1984.

Mr. John Patten: An information brochure has been issued by the Secretary General of the Conference, which includes the agenda. I shall arrange for a copy to be sent to the hon. Member.

Emigration (South Africa)

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for Social Services if he will publish in the *Official Report* the numbers of British citizens who have emigrated for (a) permanent settlement and (b) temporary settlement to the Republic of South Africa in each of the last five years.

Mr. John Patten: An annual time series showing the number of emigrants from the United Kingdom to the Republic of South Africa appears regularly in table 17 of *Population Trends*. The figures relate to persons who leave with the declared intention of residing in South Africa for at least a year, having lived in the United Kingdom for at least a year, and do not distinguish between permanent and temporary emigrants.

Gangmasters (National Insurance Deductions)

Miss Maynard asked the Secretary of State for Social Services how many cases have been examined by his Department of non-deductions or incorrect deductions of national insurance from either gangmasters or gang workers since 1 January 1982; and what was the result of the examinations.

Dr. Boyson: This information is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.