

PQ 3675
PQ 3676
PQ 3677
PQ 3679

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, what proportion and number of suitable adults give blood in England and Wales.

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, what proportion and number of suitable adults are needed to give blood to make England and Wales self-sufficient in blood and blood-derived products.

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, whether he will consider reducing the period between permitted donations of blood to four months from six, to ease the shortage of blood and blood-derived products, and to make England and Wales self-sufficient; and if he will make a statement.

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes): To ask the Secretary of State for Social Services, what is his estimate of the proportion and number of adults in England and Wales that would be suitable for blood donation.

SUGGESTED REPLY

We are already self-sufficient in blood. Regions were set plasma procurement targets in 1981 to collect 450 tonnes of plasma per annum and fully supply the increased manufacturing capacity of the new £60 million Blood Products Laboratory at Elstree. The new factory is now on-stream and we expect England and Wales to become self-sufficient in blood products next year.

Plasma may be donated or extracted from blood donations, and it is for Regions to decide how to maintain their yearly targets.

About 4% of the eligible population give approximately 2.1 million blood donations each year. Plasma donation is expanding more rapidly, having increased by 67% in 1986, the last year for which full figures are available.

Plasma donors may give every [3] weeks and this frequency will not be reduced. Blood donors give every 6 months and this is being kept under review. New blood donors are always welcome.

Mr. MacDonald

I will phone as soon as this answer is agreed.

GRO-C

24/1/88