

[28 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) to (e) The need for increasing investment in the health sector in India was emphasized during the inauguration of the proposed Commission. The terms of reference of the proposed Commission will include identification of the priority areas for health intervention and the financing strategies to address these priorities. Based on the recommendations contained in the Report, as also the magnitude of financial resources required for scaling up essential health interventions, further details like domestic funding *vis-a-vis* external sourcing would be worked out.

Ban on Nimesulide

3905. SHRIT S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any notice from N.H.R.C. seeking a ban on Nimesulide;

(b) the number of such controversial drugs being used in the country and their names; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against those controversial drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir. The matter of safety of Nimesulide has been examined by Expert Committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board, in consultation with Medical Experts and Indian Academy of Paediatrics etc. who have observed the drug to be safe and useful.

(b) and (c) The rationality of the drug formulations alleged to be harmful or irrational are examined by an Expert Committee, a Sub-Committee of Drugs Technical Advisory Board and is a continuous process. The recommendations of the Expert Committee, based on available literature, the usage and benefit risk ratio in the country are examined by the DTAB, a statutory committee under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Any drug, if found irrational or harmful, is prohibited under Section 26-A of the said Act. So far, 74 categories of drugs and formulations have been prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country.