

(b) Most of the States are encouraging and developing Ayurveda. In about 15 States and UTs there is a separate Directorate of ISM to encourage this System of Medicine. Similarly most of the States have also set up Ayurvedic Under-Graduate Colleges and PG Departments and a number of Ayurvedic Hospitals and Dispensaries for promotion of Ayurveda of Medicine. Details of the Institutions/Colleges/Hospitals/Dispensaries may please be seen at Annexure.

(See Appendix No. 184 Annexure-105)

Prevention of Pre-Natal Sex-Determination Tests

4196. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an action plan underway to prevent pre-natal sex determination tests; and

(b) if so, how soon it can be expected to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has come into force with effect from 1st January, 1996 in all the States and Union Territories (except Jammu & Kashmir). Pre-natal diagnostic techniques can be conducted, and genetic counselling can be offered only by genetic clinics, genetic laboratories and genetic counselling centres registered under the Act. Use of Pre-natal diagnostic techniques is allowed only for detecting any of the abnormalities and subject to the fulfilment of one of the conditions specified in the Act. Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is prohibited under the Act. The statutory implementation mechanism under the Act has been constituted.

Strike by employees of Government Hospitals in Delhi

4197. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 8th July, 1998 captioned "Health care to be paralysed-Group C, D staff begins 3 day stir today" in the capital involving 26 Government hospitals and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the capital is already in the grip of diseases such as Gastro-enteritis, Jaundice and Conjunctivitis etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to hold an early dialogue with its employees so as to avert strike indicating till date latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have informed that Delhi is endemic for Gastro-enteritis, Jaundice and Conjunctivitis but it is not correct that there has been any large-scale outbreak or epidemic.

(c) Meetings have been held with the employees on several occasions at different levels in the Department, the last one being on 22.7.1998. The Government has made its position on the demands clear to the employees including what is possible and advised them repeatedly to rejoin duties.

Renewal of Pensioners' CGHS Cards

4198. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT-RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pensioners' CGHS cards are being renewed;

(b) the approximate time taken for giving new cards after submission of forms and old cards; and

(c) the reasons for delay in renewing cards submitted in Shakurbasti dispensary in February, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific time period has been fixed for this purpose.

(c) The renewal of old CGHS cards of CGHS dispensary at Sakurbasti have been returned to that dispensary after completing the formalities for further necessary action. The pensioners are, however, not being denied CGHS facilities with their old cards.

Health Services to be affected by cut in W.H.O. Aid

4199. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has proposed a drastic cut in the aid extended to India and some other countries in South-East Asia while funds are being diverted to Africa and Europe;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons as given out therefor and steps being taken to seek larger allocations; and

(c) the specific schemes/areas of our health services which are likely to be affected due to the proposed cuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. One of the recommendations of the Executive Board (EB) of the WHO made to the World Health Assembly (WHA) was to reduce Budget allocations to the South-East Asia region by 48.4% leading to a reduction in the allocation for India by 36.8%. The purpose for such reduction was to provide additional funding to the countries of Africa and Eastern Europe.

At the 51st session of the WHA which met in Geneva from 11-16th May, 1998, the representatives of this region, including those from India intervened and were able to persuade the WHA to modify the recommendation of the EB.

Accordingly, the WHA resolved that the reduction shall not exceed 3% per year, to be spread over six years commencing from 2000AD, which works out to a reduction of 18% for this region. However, the allocation of the least developed countries is not to be reduced beyond their 1998-99 allocation. The exact allocation for India is yet to be determined by the Regional Office.

WHO funds are normally used to fill critical gaps in availability of resources for implementing schemes in the health sector with an objective of achieving Health For All.

Therefore, no health programmes will in any manner, be adversely affected by such reduction in funds though some readjustment in the activities may become necessary.

Permission to market Anti-Impotency Drug 'Viagra' in India

4200. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Controller received application from drug companies for permission to market anti-impotency drug 'Viagra' in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the social and other implications besides economic, of introducing this drug in the country's market; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mr