

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The use of Baralgin is under clinical trial at All India Institute of Medical Sciences to establish its effectiveness. Periactin which is a brand of Cyproheptadine is an appetite stimulant and has not been banned in any developed country. Verddivion is a preparation of Glycerophosphates, the use of which is liquid formulations is banned in the country.

(c) and (d) This Ministry has introduced a National Essential Drug list for safe rational drug use in the country. Workshops are organised by Indian Medical Association from time-to-time to promote the concept of rational therapeutics to its members.

Central Government's Assistance for States in Setting up Medical Funds for the Poor

3633. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the States to set up medical funds for poor, suffering from serious ailments;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have announced that they will help in increasing these funds;

(c) if so, whether Central Government have released rupees 30 crore funds to help the States; and

(d) the details of the amount to be given to each State;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) The details of the Scheme are being worked out with a view to assist the State Governments in setting up medical relief funds for providing specialised treatment to the poor patients below the poverty line. On finalisation of the scheme, the funds would be released.

Disputes Between Insurance Companies and Consumers

3634. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few years there has been an increase in the number of disputes between insurance companies and consumer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medical claim policy, in particular has not been able to meet consumer expectations;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the functioning of insurance sector in its entirety; and

(d) in view of increasing number of complaints whether Government will make it mandatory for every insurance company to have an impartial and independent review committee to look into the complaints in the quickest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) For further popularising the medical claim policy, the maximum limit of compensation for hospitalisation has been enhanced from Rs 83,000/- to Rs. 3,00,000/- per person. Further, a new low cost policy known as 'Jan Arogya' has recently been introduced.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) GIC and its subsidiaries have already set-up Grievance Redressal Machinery, which looks into complaints made by insureds and helps in expeditious disposal of claims.

EC's directives for completing the process of organisational elections by political parties

3635. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has issued directives to all the political

parties that they must complete the process to organisational elections by the 1st January, 1997;

(b) if so, whether EC has also sought details of election expenses by political parties in recent election of Lok Sabha from political parties;

(c) whether the directives have been discussed with political parties; and

(d) if so, whether all the political parties have agreed to abide by the EC's directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The Election Commission has informed that it had directed political parties to confirm to it that the provisions of party constitution relating to organisational elections were being observed scrupulously.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Harassment of Patients by Advisor Ayurveda/Siddha

3636. DR. GOPALRAO VITHAL-
RAO PATIL:
SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH
KALYAN:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Adviser of Ayurveda/Siddha refuses to countersign or cut the maximum medicines issued by the CMOS (Ayurveda) of CGHS and verbally instructs the patients to visit Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodi Colony, New Delhi;

(b) whether the Adviser (Ayurveda & Siddha) Deputy Adviser (Ayurvedic) Medical Superintendent are empowered in this regard vide order No. 13-12-95-CGHS/GE/3986-4002 dated 23.11.95;

(c) whether this type of behaviour is objectionable in the public interest since patients are harassed in this way; and

(d) what action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) With a view to regulating the local purchase of non-listed, classical and proprietary, Ayurvedic medicines, orders were issued in 1995 that countersignature by Adviser/Dy. Adviser (Ayurveda)/Medical Superintendent, CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodhi Road, would be necessary to authorise such purchases. At times, when unlisted medicines are prescribed for months together at a stretch, the Adviser etc. restrict the permission to 2-4 weeks only, so as to review after a certain period, the effect of these medicines. When, despite prolonged use of such medicines, the beneficiary does not get relief, he is advised to visit the CGHS Ayurvedic hospital at Lodhi Road.

Newsitem regarding grant of extension of CMD of Punjab and Sind Bank

3637. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appeared in the Hindustan Times of 2nd May, 1996, alleging favouritism shown in the matter of granting extension to the Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab and Sind Bank;

(b) the names of the Expert's Committee which recommended the grant of extension to the Chairman and Managing Director in violation of law; and

(c) the reasons for which no action has so far been taken by Government to remove the CMD of Punjab and Sind Bank?