

what point the inquiry would be made and whether Government propose to ban the sale of chocolates until the question is resolved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) There is no prescribed limit for nickel in chocolate under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act & Rules made thereunder.

Analysis by six National Laboratories [(1) Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta; (2) Central Food Laboratory, Pune; (3) Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore; (4) Defence Food Research Laboratory, Mysore; (5) National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad; and (6) National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.] of randomly collected samples of different brands of chocolates, manufactured between September 1991 and August 1992, has revealed that the content of nickel is within the range of ND-2.08 ppm. However, the Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, which is a private laboratory, has reported the nickel content in the range of 15 to 41.5 ppm.

Based upon its own findings, the Environmental Research Laboratory has stated in one of its reports that the Indian children are consuming between 100 to 400 times more than that of the maximum limit of toxic nickel through chocolates alone.

(b) and (c) In order to dispel any doubts on the subject, a meeting of experts, under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services, was recently held to consider the entire gamut of content of nickel in food, including chocolates, vis-a-vis laying down its limits, if any. The experts have unanimously recommended as follows:—

(i) A group of experts be constituted under the Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, (NIOH) to review the method of

determination of nickel in food and examine the available data.

(ii) The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) should evaluate the scientific evidence of toxicity of nickel when consumed orally and may advise the Government on the need for setting standard for nickel in food article. NIOH and ICMR have been advised to submit their reports in six months. Final view in the matter would be taken after considering the reports of NIOH and ICMR.

Integrated system of medicine

*36. DR. SANJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 22.9.92 under the caption, "Plea for Integrated System of Medicine" to the effect that the Association of Integrated Medical Graduate, Delhi have demanded that Integrated system of Medicine should be declared as "National System of Medicine" in order to remove quackery;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main suggestions made are to teach Ayurveda alongwith modern medicine and to recognise integrated medical graduates as a separate category of practitioners.

(c) The National Health Policy approved by Parliament envisages development of each system of medicine in accordance with its own genius. Therefore each of these systems of medicine are being developed separately.-