

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) A news item quoting Dr. Donald Ross, a British Cardiac Surgeon, as having stated that Cholesterol is not a coronary risk factor has appeared in a newspaper.

Major scientific bodies like WHO; International Society and Federation of Cardiology; European Society of Cardiology and British Cardiac Society continue to recognise cholesterol as a major coronary risk factor. The ICMR is of the view that till compelling new evidence to the contrary is available, high level of blood cholesterol should continue to be recognised as harmful to heart.

Blood donors affected by AIDS

3076. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 10 per cent of the professional blood donors in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh are affected by the AIDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Experimental test of Kala Azar medicines

3077. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted investigations to find out proven medicines as were prescribed by Indian Medical Practitioner in the forties to arrest the epidemic of Kala-azar;

(b) whether some foreign firms have been offering their medicines on experimental basis to deal with the Kala-azar in Bihar and other places;

(c) whether Government would take into consideration the availability of Indian Medicines before allowing any foreign firms/organisation to experiment with the health of Indian masses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):

(a) Dr. U. N. Brahmachari had formulated a drug called urea atibamine for treatment of Kala-Azar in 1930s. The drug was manufactured by Bengal Immunity Co., Calcutta, under supervision of Dr. Brahmachari. After his death the manufacture of urea atibamine was stopped because nobody knew its formula. The ICMR had taken the initiative to get urea atibamine analysed to decipher the formula. Samples of the drug were sent to the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for analysis. The report indicated that the compound was decomposed. Therefore, it has not been possible to find the composition of Dr. Brahmachari's medicine for Kala-Azar.

(b) A project for conducting clinical trial was granted to compare the effectiveness of aminosidine injection alone or combined with sodium stibogluconate and treatment with sodium stibogluconate alone for treatment of Kala-Azar in hospitalised patients.