

[26 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) The details of financial assistance and utilisation etc. from World Bank and WHO are given in the statement annexed.

Statement

Assistance received from World Health Organisation

Year	National AIDS Control Programme		Malaria		Cancer	
	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation
1998&99	2.02	2.02	0.81	0.81	1.41	1.41
2000-01	0.78	1.24**	0.95	0.95	3.02	2.00*

* The remaining balance will be utilised during the remaining part of the year 2001.

** The extra expenditure has been met from saving in other programmes.

Information about assistance received from World Bank is being obtained.

Amending warning code on smoking

787. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some foreign countries, warning code has been amended to state that smoking causes heart diseases and lung cancer;

(b) if so, whether Government will consider adopting similar measures in our country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Countries like the United State of America, Canada, Scandanavian countries like Sweden, Finland and Norway, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand have mandatory Health Warnings that have to be prominently displayed on cigarette packets and advertisements. These warnings are direct e.g. Cigarette smoking causes Lung Cancer, Emphysema, Bronchitis, can complicate pregnancy etc. etc. In Scandanavian countries, there are a set of warnings which have to be rotated. The consumers are adequately warned about the dangerous consequences of smoking.

(b) and (c) As per, the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, a 'statutory warning' CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH is required to be displayed prominently on cigarette packets and is required advertisement.

Untimely deaths by spurious medicines

†788. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the market is abundant with the spurious medicines and consumption thereof leads to untimely death and spreading fatal diseases very rapidly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save the people therefrom; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the patients are undergoing its mal-effects as a result of making inappropriate use of formulas by the medicine manufacturing companies and loopholes in the safety system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Government is aware of the problem of manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs. This is a clandestine activity indulged in by some unscrupulous and anti social persons. As per the feed back given by the State Licensing Authorities, 17 cases related to spurious drugs have been reported from Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and UP in the last one year (Statement-I) and 68 persons have been arrested in this regard since 1-4-2000 (Statement-II). (See below)

So far as consumption of spurious medicines relating to untimely death and spread of fatal diseases is concerned, no such feed back is available from the State Drugs Control Authorities. Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. State Governments have been empowered to enforce quality of drugs including checks on manufacture, sale and distribution of spurious drugs. The said Act was amended in 1982 to provide specific definition of spurious drugs and severe penalties extending to life imprisonment which when used by any person in the diagnosis treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease is likely to cause his death or is likely to cause such harm on his body as would amount to grievous hurt with in the meaning of section 320 of IPC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.