

Agreement with South Africa in Health and Medical Science

817. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Africa have signed any agreement in the field of health and medical science;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which South Africa has agreed to provide health centres and assist India in dealing with HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis and Nutrition programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Popularisation of Indian Systems of medicine in the World

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian System of Medicine is being progressively practiced in the World;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that bio-diversity is on the verge of extinction/collapse due to neglect of our own ancient system of medicine by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) Traditional medicines including Ayurveda and becoming popular in USA, UK, Germany, Russia, etc.

(c) and (d) Certain medicinal plants have become endangered due to environmental degradation, over exploitation and improper harvesting and not due to neglect of our systems of medicine. However, various steps have already been initiated for the development of medicinal plants which are

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.