

immunisation programme as has been done in about 100 countries, in response to a call from the World Health Organisation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) Yes Sir, Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Hepatitis-B still of the vaccination list", published in the Statesman of 23rd July, 2000. Resource constraint and the need for improving the routine vaccination programme already under implementation, have been the main reasons for not taking up Hepatitis-B vaccination as a part of the nationwide Universal Immunization Programme. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at present is examining a proposal for a Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis-B vaccination in selected districts and cities.

**Posts of Homoeopathic Pharmacists in CGHS Dispensary, R.K. Puram**

† 1471. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiative has been taken to fill up the vacant posts of Homoeopathic pharmacists reserved for OBC candidates in C.G.H.S. Homoeopathic Dispensary at Sector-12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay caused so far in this regard;

(d) whether applications have been invited and demands sent to Employment Exchange for this purpose; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government purpose to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The vacancies of Homoeopathic Pharmacists are filled up on the basis of common sanctioned strength and not on the basis of

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

dispensary-wise strength. At present, out of two vacancies of Homoeopathic Pharmacists, one post is reserved for OBC. The names of candidates from the Central Employment Exchange -have been received and further action to fill up the vacancies is under active process.

**Ban on Tobacco and Gutkha**

† 1472. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether Government proposed to put a ban on the production of tobacco and various brands of *Gutkhas* and *Pan Masalas* in view of the growing disease of cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take till implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) There is no proposal to ban the production of tobacco or pan masala. However a proposal for a comprehensive legislation banning the advertisements of all Tobacco and Tobacco products, including Gutkha, is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Under the PFA Rules 1955, compulsory warning is required to be indicated on the label of pan masala and gutkha to the following extent:

(i) Chewing of Pan Masala may be injurious to health.

(ii) Chewing of Tobacco is injurious to health.

The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs have been advised to educate the masses to discourage the use of these products. The

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