

Plastic anaemia by the use of Chloramphenicol in the country

1696. SHRIMATI MAJMCCNA SULTAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that chloramphenicol is being freely used and prescribed by the medical practitioners as antibiotic in our country ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are reports of fatal blood disorder known as plastic anaemia due to the use of this drug ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this drug is banned in Japan and a number of countries and allowed restricted use only for typhoid paratyphoid fever in certain developed countries such as U.K. U.S.A. F.R.G. etc.

(d) if so what action has been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(e) if not, reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: (a) It is not a fact that the Chloramphenicol an antibiotic is being freely used and prescribed by the Medical practitioners. Chloramphenicol is a Schedule 'H' drug and preparations containing this drug are required to be sold only against the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner only.

(b) The most serious adverse effect of Chloramphenicol in sensitive population would be bone marrow depression. Serious and fatal blood disorders are reported to occur in some patients as a result of administration of this drug. The reported incidence of such reaction in the literature is low, one in approximately 30,000 or more. In view of this, the use of this drug has been restricted for typhoid fever, H. influenzae, meningitis and other severe infections where Chloramphenicol is ranked as the first drug of choice.

(c) So far as we are aware the drug Chloramphenicol is being marketed in many developed and developing countries including UK and USA. In Japan the drug was voluntarily withdrawn due to the risk of a plastic anaemia with its use.

(d) and (e) In order to ensure that anti-biotics like Chloramphenicol are used with care and only under medical supervision, these drugs have been classified as prescription drugs under Schedule 'H' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The risk of plastic anaemia due to use of Chloramphenicol does not contraindicate its use in clinical situation under medical supervision in which it is necessary.

In India the use of the drug Chloramphenicol has been restricted for typhoid fever, H. influenzae, meningitis and other fever infections, for which Chloramphenicol is ranked as the first drug of choice.

Sale of banned drugs in the country

1697. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN : will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention have drawn to the news item which appeared in the Free Press journal of 11th December 1985 under the heading "Banned drugs still on sale";

(b) whether it is a fact that Government banned the sale of 23 drugs in the country in 1983 ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these drugs are still being marketed in the country ; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in this regard ?