

Quality of drugs manufactured in Karnataka

489. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that drugs manufactured in the excise free zones in Karnataka are not of standard quality as per recent statement of Drug Controller of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action is proposed to remedy the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Drugs Controller, Karnataka, he has made no such statement as there are no excise free zones in Karnataka with respect to manufacture of drugs.

- (c) Does not arise.

Vaccines manufactured by closed vaccine units

490. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government wants to bring to public use vaccines manufactured by vaccine labs that have remained closed in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that shelf life of vaccines manufactured in these vaccine labs which have remained closed for many years is about to expire; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Yes. The suspension of licenses of Central Research Institute, Kasauli, BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Guindy and Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor have been conditionally revoked to allow them to dispose of the existing stock after obtaining prior approval of the Competent authority to the effect that the existing stock are fit for human consumption.

Ayurvedic medicines

491. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has devised a scheme to ensure the quality guarantee of Ayurvedic medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether this scheme would ensure the quality guarantee of Ayurvedic medicines; and

(d) if so, the details of the manner in which quality guarantee would be ensured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (d) Yes. Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Quality Council of India (QCI) has developed a scheme named "Voluntary Certification Scheme for AYUSH Products" which was launched in October, 2009. The Scheme envisages voluntary application by manufacturing industries to the QCI for certification of quality of their products against prescribed standards. Once they fulfil the prescribed standards Premium mark (for international market) and 'Standard mark' (for domestic market) are assigned to the products. This way AYUSH products of quality would be available to the consumers and will help the systems gain more acceptability.

Junked food

492. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring in strict safety and quality control of junked foods and energy drinks as there is no standards governing these items in the country's existing food laws namely the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India has informed that the process of making standards for new food items being introduced in the market from time to time, like the 'Junk food' and the 'energy drinks', which have not been defined under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955, is a continuous process undertaken by the statutory authority under the exiting food laws.

Health insurance scheme for Government employees

493. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2858 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2009 and state:

(a) the present position with regard to the introduction of health insurance scheme for Central Government employees and pensioners;

(b) the number of employees and pensioners separately who have opted for the scheme as required by Government till 15 February, 2010, as stipulated;

(c) what benefit/rebate in contribution under the scheme would be admissible to pensioners who have been issued Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) cards valid for whole life; and