

(a) whether dangerous components have been found in the anti-cancer medicine, Albupax;

(b) whether the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had made a recommendation in October, 2009 to cancel the permission to manufacture this drug as well as to withdraw the stock of this drug available in the market on the basis of laboratory report and assessment report of the production unit of the company; and

(c) if so, the reasons for granting permission to manufacture this drug?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata, in its test report has declared the drug Albupax (paclitaxal Albumin bound particle injectable suspension) to be not of standard quality due to the presence of higher level of Endotoxin than acceptable limits. On the basis of the test reports, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) suspended the permission to manufacture the said drug by following the laid down procedure and also asked the manufacturer to recall the product from the market.

(c) The first permission to manufacture a new drug is given by the CDSCO on the basis of the certificate of analysis, test report, safety and efficacy data of the drug provided by the manufacturer as per the requirement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules. During manufacturing, the firm is also required to comply with the conditions of permission and manufacturing Licence issued by State Drug Controller relating to requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Products specifications etc. The manufacturer of the drug Albupax had provided certificate of analysis wherein all the parameters including Endotoxin were within acceptable limits. Accordingly, the permission to manufacture the drug was granted.

Fact finding committee on NREGS

*65. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a fact finding committee has found serious irregularities in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in several States;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether several districts which have been found misusing the NREGS funds are continuously getting assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check such irregularities and ensure effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) During regular reviews of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, visits by NLMS and Central Council members, through media reports and by way of complaints made by individuals, irregularities in the implementation of the Act have come to the notice of the Ministry of Rural

Development. All cases of irregularities are referred to the concerned State Governments for taking appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Central Government, as such has not constituted any fact finding committee on NREGS.

(c) and (d) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Funds are released by the Centre based on the labour demand arising at the field level. Under the Act, Central Government is committed to bear the entire cost of wages paid to unskilled workers which are to be paid within 15 days from the date on which work was done. Cases relating to misuse of MGNREGA funds are taken up with the concerned State Governments for conducting enquiry and for taking action against the guilty officials in accordance with the provisions of the Act and also for taking disciplinary action against the service rules applicable to the officials.

To check such irregularities and to ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the following steps have been taken:

- (i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.
- (ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information. 9.0 crore job cards and 2.9 crore muster rolls have been up loaded on the web site.
- (iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers. 8.66 crore bank/post office accounts have been opened so far. To cover the gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards and biometrics have been initiated.
- (iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.
- (v) Scheme of Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.
- (vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

- (vii) In cases of misappropriation and embezzlement of Government funds under MGNREGA, all State Governments have been requested to ensure that not only disciplinary action should be taken against the guilty officials, but simultaneously criminal prosecution should also be initiated under Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act, besides recovering the amount involved from the persons concerned in accordance with the Law.

Post-graduate medical colleges

*66. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medical colleges offering MBBS courses of studies in the country, with State-wise break-up and how many of them are under private management;
- (b) how many of these colleges are providing MD/MS etc. courses of studies;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the post-graduate medical colleges are limited in number in comparison to requirement and also in respect of the number of desiring students; and
- (d) the steps Government proposes to take in order to increase the number of Government colleges for higher medical studies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) At present, there are 300 medical colleges offering MBBS course in the country, out of which 143 medical colleges are in the Government sector and remaining 157 medical colleges are in the private sector. State-wise details in this regard are given in Statement (See below).

Out of 300 medical colleges/institutes, 209 medical colleges are offering Post Graduate (PG) degree/diploma courses. As per information provided by the Medical Council of India (MCI), approximately 23,000 MBBS students pass out every year for which approximately 13,505 PG and PG diploma seats are available. Further National Board of Examination also provides 5,000 seats in various DNB courses. Thus, seats for post graduate and post graduate equivalent are available for more than 75% of students passing out MBBS course throughout the country.

In order to facilitate increase of the number of medical colleges and seats in various medical courses, the Central Government has amended the Regulations rationalizing/relaxing the norms in terms of teaching faculty, land requirements, bed strengths and other infrastructural facilities. Also the Central Government has revised the teacher student ratio from 1:1 to 1:2 to enable the medical colleges to increase seats in post-graduate medical courses. As a result of these revised norms, approximately 4000 additional PG seats are envisaged to be added in the medical colleges/institutes annually.