

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (c) There are only five dispensaries/units under CGHS, Delhi which offers treatment to CGHS beneficiaries under Unani system of medicine. In view of the fewer number of beneficiaries opting for treatment under Unani system of medicine, CGHS has designated only one chemist for supply of medicines on local purchase basis, which is done centrally and the medicines are supplied directly to the concerned dispensary/unit by the chemist. This takes a little longer, in some cases, than the time taken for receipt of allopathic medicines. The position is likely to improve after all Unani dispensaries/units are computerised and connected through network.

Augmenting of medical seats in the country

1282. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to increase the number of seats in medical colleges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether this proposal would stop migration of students to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) and (b) In order to increase the number of Post Graduate (PG) seats, the Central Government has revised the teacher student ratio from 1:1 to 1:2 to enable the medical colleges to increase seats in postgraduate medical courses. There is also an approved scheme for strengthening and upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges by way of one time grant of Rs. 1350 crores with funding pattern of 75% by Central Government and 25% by State Government for starting new Post Graduate (PG) disciplines and increasing PG seats by central funding during Eleventh Plan.

- (c) No.

False scare on swine flu

1283. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of some reports in the Indian media that swine flu (H1N1) pandemic was a canard created by certain experts of the WHO advisory bodies with the objective of helping the sales of a certain drug of a pharmaceutical company;
- (b) whether any expert of Indian origin was associated with this conspiracy; and
- (c) what measures Government intends to take against the parties involved and in order to prevent a recurrence of such a scam?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Reports appeared in the media in January, 2010 about a resolution tabled by Dr. Wolfgang

Wodrag, Chairman of the Health Committee in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe that in order to promote their patented drug and vaccines against the Swine flu, pharmaceutical companies influenced scientists and official agencies, responsible for public health standards to alarm Governments worldwide and make them squander, scarce health resources.

The matter was raised by the Government of India in the Executive Board meeting of World Health Organization held at Geneva in January, 2010 and asked WHO to clarify to all member countries the factual position so that the credibility of public health programmes does not get eroded by such allegations.

World Health Organization has thereafter written to all member countries refuting the allegation and confirming that the outbreak of Influenza A H1N1 was indeed a pandemic.

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

Fake drugs in the market

1284. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large scale fake drugs are supplied in the market;
- (b) if so, the number of raids occurred during the last three years;
- (c) what action Government has taken against those persons who are involved in this;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that some Government officials are also helping in this illegal business; and
- (e) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) No.

(b) As per the details provided by the State Drugs Controllers, 9765 raids were conducted in the last three years.

(c) Investigations have been carried out in all the cases leading to filing of criminal prosecutions and cancellation of licences.

(d) No reports have been received in respect of involvement of Government officials in the manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

- (e) Does not arise.

Opening of medical colleges in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh

†1285. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.