

General Physician—State Medical Instt., Kiev, U.S.S.R.

General Physician—Kalinin Medical Instt., Kalinin, U.S.S.R.

General Physician—Medical Institute State University Kharkov, U.S.S.R.

General Physician—Crimean Medical Instt., Simferopol, U.S.S.R.;

General Physician—Restove-on-Don State Medical Instt., U.S.S.R.

Short Supply Of Drugs

477. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO
KALMADI: SHRI ARVIND
GANESH KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Anti-T.B., Anti-malaria, Anti-leprosy, Anti-dysentery and Anti-phylerial drugs are in short supply in Central Government hospitals in Delhi and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons there for and what steps are being taken by Government to improve the supply position of these drugs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUNUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) There is no shortage of such drugs in the Central Government hospitals.

(b) Does not arise.

Use of Amidopyrin

478. SHRI SURESH SHAMRAO
KALMADI: SHRI ARVIND
GANESH KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Amidopyrin—a very toxic drug, has been in use in India though its use has

been banned in most of the advanced countries;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the quantity of the said drug imported during the year 1981-82?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b) According to available information, only Japan, West Germany and Switzerland had decided withdrawal of Amidopyrin from their Markets. In consultation with Medical Experts it was decided in December, 1978 that the import of the Drug through State Trading Corporation should be stopped, and Indian Drugs Pharmaceuticals Ltd. should be asked to gradually stop production of the drug. The Manufacturers Associations were also informed of the decision taken by Government to phase out the use of Amidopyrin.

All the State Drug Control authorities have again been told in February, 1982 to direct the firms, if any manufacturing preparations containing Amidopyrine to discontinue the same forthwith.

(c) Amidopyrine has been included in Appendix 4 (absolute Banned list) in the Import Policy for the years 1980-81, 1981-82, and 1982-83, and its import is totally banned. Although it was assumed that by placing an absolute ban on the import of the drug Amidopyrine its import would be stopped and the drug would not be available to the manufacturers for use in the manufacture of formulations containing Amidopyrine, but some imports might be taking place against REP licences (Registered Contract) of 1977-78 of which the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has no specific information.