

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) to (c) The Department of Pharmaceuticals is in the process of examining a proposal to set up a Venture Fund for promoting drug discovery and innovation. Details including size, etc. are being worked out with the help of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

Ayurvedic colleges

2498. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Ayurvedic colleges which were given recognition during last year; and
- (b) the number of Ayurvedic colleges decided to be opened in Madhya Pradesh and by when these colleges would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Government had accorded permission for starting five new Ayurveda colleges in the country during the last year under Section 13A of the Indian Medicine Central Council (IMCC) Act, 1970.

(b) The Department of AYUSH has received a proposal from a private organization seeking permission in terms of Section 13A of the IMCC Act 1970 for starting a new Ayurvedic Medical College in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) has not recommended the application for approval by Government.

Approval for pharma products

2499. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to seek time-bound Japanese nod for pharma products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the response of Japan in this regard?