

III-effects of vegetables injected with Oxytocin on health

†2235. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any step to detect ill-effects on health by vegetables injected with oxytocin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) As per available information, oxytocin is functional only when it is directly injected into the blood circulation.

Following reports in media/press regarding the use of oxytocin in vegetables, a 'Core Committee' has been constituted under the co-chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) & Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research ICMR and the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to review the extent of use of oxytocin in fruits and vegetables, its effects on health and identify researchable issues pertaining to it.

Rural MBBS degree

2236. SHRI RANJITSINH VJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates to create a cadre of health-care workers for the rural areas titled Rural MBBS degree;

(b) whether it is a fact that the media fraternity is generally opposed to the new degree on the grounds that the shorter duration will result in inadequately trained professionals;

(c) the duration of the degree course as compared to medical training taking about six years which is typically split into five years of schooling of which the first three years are preclinical and fourth and fifth are clinical followed by one year apprenticeship on the job; and

(d) the details of the new scheme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.