

(c) and (d) In a bid to provide low cost generic medicines, Department of Pharmaceuticals has launched Jan Aushadhi Campaign under which Jan Aushadhi Stores would be opened at/near Government Hospital premises with the support of State Governments concerned. Under this Programme, 80 such Stores, spread over in nine States including Delhi and Chandigarh have been set up so far. Low cost but good quality Generic Medicines produced by Central Public Sector Undertakings are made available in these stores.

Alarming levels of toxins in fruits and vegetables

2253. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the alarming level of toxins in vegetables and fruits across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pesticides component such as chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, ethyl and parathion are used in growing numbers of vegetables and fruits in India;

(d) whether these pesticides have the potential to cause serious neurological problems, kidney damage, skin diseases, cancer and other such grievous diseases; and

(e) the action taken or being taken by Government to stop the use of such pesticide components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) Under the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation's Central Sector Scheme, Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National level during April, 2009 to August, 2010, a total of 5683 samples of the vegetables and 2980 samples of fruits were collected from various Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) markets and retail outlets across various parts of the country. Pesticide residues were detected in 606 (10.6%) vegetables and 272 (9.2%) fruits samples, out of which 98 (1.7%) vegetables samples and 22(0.8%) fruits samples were found to contain residues above their Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) notified Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) Residues of chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, ethyl and parathion pesticides, have not been detected in the vegetables and fruits samples.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Company for procuring drugs and equipments

2254. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether in its first significant move towards bringing about more transparency the Ministry has decided to set up a company with independent directors on board, to procure drug and equipments, to be distributed to State-run medicare centres;

(b) if so, whether planning panel has approved the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the main aim is to cut waste, leakages and improve distribution of drugs to States; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Government proposes to set up a Central Procurement Agency (CPA) for the purpose of procuring, storing and distributing drugs and equipments.

(b) In-principle approval has been accorded by the Planning Commission.

(c) Yes.

(d) No time-frame has been fixed.

Controlling spread of swine flu

2255. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR:

SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI:

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

(a) the total number of people died till now due to swine flu in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the treatment of swine flu is not available in backward areas of the country;