

**Undigestable Milk**

70. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Times of India dated March 25, 2000 captioned, "Not a single Indian can digest milk"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information furnished by Indian Council of Medical Research, some individuals especially Asians suffer from lactose deficiency, which means that they cannot tolerate lactose sugar (which is present in milk). This is a genetic error of metabolism like any other genetic disorder and occurs in isolated cases. In such specific situations physicians can identify the cases and advise to avoid the intake of milk. Otherwise, milk is a food item of choice with respect to bio-availability of important minerals like calcium, biological value and digestibility of protein.

**Primary Health System in States**

†705. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked to be incurred during the Ninth Five Year Plan on primary health system;

(b) whether Government have received any requests from State Governments for strengthening auxiliary health system in States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan a total of Rs. 14433.85 crores have been allocated towards the State Health Sector by Planning Commission for all States/UTs. This includes provision for Basic Minimum Service Programmes under which States have flexibility to choose their priority amongst seven Basic Services including Primary Health Care.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Requests for strengthening of State Health System have been received from various States and are under implementation in some of the States with World Bank funding after appraisal by the Government. Reproductive and Child Health Programme is also being implemented in the States which provides for strengthening of Primary Health Care System through provision of drugs, equipments, civil works, training and support staff etc.

#### Cause and Cure of Asthma

706. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that asthma is hereditary and first degree blood relations are at ten fold greater risk;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a rise in new case of asthma where people with no family history of the disease are getting attacks late in life sometimes in their 50s and one in every ten kids has asthma; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to cure the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]:

(a) Genetic factors are important in determining the risk of development of Asthma. However, environmental factors are also likely to be primary determinants of expression of asthma.

(b) There is reported rise in asthma world wide. There is a suggestion that number of cases of asthma are increasing in India. Asthma can occur at any time, even in old subjects who do not have