

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Overuse of antibiotics in the country

1632. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned of overuse of antibiotics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken any action to curb the overuse of antibiotics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Regional office for South East Asia of World Health Organization has issued a press release that rational use of antibiotics is critical to fight against infectious diseases. It has urged all stakeholders to promote rational use of antibiotics in the fight against infectious diseases. However, no India specific warning has been issued.

(b) and (c) A Task Force constituted by the Government to assess, review and suggest measures on anti-microbial resistance has, in its recommendations, suggested various steps to rationalize the use of antibiotics in the country to control the increased microbial resistance due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics, which include *inter alia* a separate Schedule under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to regulate sale of antibiotics, curtailing the availability of Fixed Dose Combinations, colour coding of third generation of antibiotics and restricting their access only to tertiary care hospitals, development of standardised Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing methodology, development of detailed Standard Operating Procedure for microbial identification and for reporting and training of doctors etc. Further, provisions already exist in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, which mandate that antibiotics are sold on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner only.

Standardisation of pan masala and gutkha products

†1633. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.