

Availability of banned drugs in the market

248. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several drugs which are banned in developed countries are freely available in India and some of these drugs have proved more harmful;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the drugs banned outside India but available in India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several drugs banned in India are still available in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to implement strictly the Central authority's ban on drugs and verify whether any banned drugs are being sold in the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A drug banned/restricted in one country may continue to be marketed in other countries as the respective government examines the usage, doses, indications permitted etc. and overall risk-benefits ratio and takes decisions on the continued marketing of any drug in that country.

Safety issues of drug formulations, as and when reported, are assessed in consultation with the Expert Committees/Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB). Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committees/DTAB, the Central Government prohibits manufacture, sale and distribution of such drugs in the country. So far, the Central Government has prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of 91 drugs.

(c) to (e) The manufacture or sale of a drug prohibited by the Central Government is an offence. Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, the Drug Control Authorities of the State/Union Territory Governments ensure that the drugs prohibited are not marketed in the country. However, being a clandestine activity such practices are dealt with only through continuous surveillance and surprise inspections raids by

the State Drug Control Departments. The inspectorate staff keep strict vigil and draw samples of drugs for test and analysis to monitor the quality of drugs moving in the country. The violations, if any, are dealt with by them in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. A new scheme has been prepared by the Central Government for providing assistance for strengthening of State Drug Control Departments during the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

Regulation of medical education standard

249. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to provide a mechanism to regulate standard of medical education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether views of the State Governments and other stakeholders have been ascertained in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 already provides that the Medical Council of India (MCI) will prescribe the minimum standards of medical education required for granting medical qualification by universities or medical institutions in India. The Act also provides that the Council shall furnish draft regulations and all subsequent amendments to all State Governments before seeking approval from the Central Government.

Clinical trials in the country

†250.DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal clinical trials are beings conducted on the people of our country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.