

Committee and the Food Authority before these are notified. The levels/norms fixed by the European Union, USA and UK as per their climatic and geographical conditions, are different from the levels/norms, fixed by India.

Presence of heavy metals in cosmetic products

2560. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules ban the use of heavy metals in cosmetic products;
- (b) whether Government has set any limits for presence of toxic and heavy metals in cosmetic products;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to check and regulate sale of large number of cosmetic products in the Indian market having presence of heavy metals including mercury, chromium and nickel?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 prohibit cosmetics containing Mercury compounds and also the use of Lead and Arsenic compounds for the purpose of colouring cosmetics. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) provides for 30 Indian Standards on finished cosmetics. Out of these, 24 standards have specified the limits for Heavy Metals, namely, lead (Pb) and Arsenic (as AS₂O₃). The prescribed maximum limits are 20 ppm for lead and 2 ppm for Arsenic.

The State/UT Drugs Control Authorities, who grant licences for manufacture of cosmetics draw samples for testing of cosmetics and take action in the manner as prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Growing menace of fake medicines

2561. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the business of fake medicines In the country is growing;
- (b) if so, the details of culprits booked and the action taken against them; and