

Increase in cases of food adulteration

3672. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been any study or report suggesting an increasing number of food adulteration cases in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken any specific steps to curb this practice and, if so, the results of such measures taken by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) No such study has been conducted by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). However, as per information received from States/UTs, the number of samples analysed were 69949 and out of these 10380 samples were found adulterated and misbranded during 2012-13. Similarly during 2013-14, the number of samples analysed were 62318 out of which 11577 samples were found adulterated and misbranded.

(c) To curb the menace of food adulteration, regular surveillance, monitoring and sampling of food products is undertaken by the States/UTs Governments under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. In cases, where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, penal action is initiated against the offenders.

Referral practice in private healthcare

3673. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to address the rampant practice of kickbacks and commissions for referrals in private health care sector;
- (b) whether any steps are being taken to prohibit the payment of such commissions to doctors by private hospitals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the powers of the MCI for investigating and punishing offending doctors and institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) Professional misconduct by medical practitioners is governed by the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 made under Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956. Clause 6.4.1 of these regulations provides that a physician shall not give, solicit, or receive nor shall he offer to give

solicit or receive, any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of or return for the referring, recommending or procuring of any patient for medical, surgical or other treatment. This provision shall apply with equal force to the referring, recommending or procuring by a physician or any person, specimen or material for diagnostic purposes or other study/ work.

MCI and the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action under these regulations which may include removal altogether or for a specified period from the Medical Register the name of the delinquent registered practitioner.

(d) As per “The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002”, in cases of professional misconduct, it is open to the MCI and/or State Medical Councils to consider and decide upon the facts of the case. The appropriate medical council would hold enquiry and give opportunity to the registered medical practitioner to be heard. If found guilty, it may award such punishment as deemed necessary or may direct the removal altogether or for a specified period, the name of the delinquent registered medical practitioner from the medical register. The complaints should be decided within a period of six months. MCI is an Appellate Authority in all cases of medical negligence and malpractice by medical professionals referred to it by all State Medical Councils.

Renting out of space in CGHS dispensaries

3674. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantive space in several CGHS dispensaries in Delhi has been allotted for private dental practice, if so, the details thereof of the allotments made with its terms/conditions;

(b) the revenue earning of the Ministry from these clinics and how much CGHS is paying annually to these clinics for the treatment of its beneficiaries; and

(c) whether the Ministry is contemplating opening a dedicated CGHS wing in Dr. RML Hospital on the lines of Safdarjung Hospital, if so, the detail hereof and the time-frame set in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) In 13 wellness centres under CGHS Delhi-NCR, space has been allotted to a private outsourced agency for 22 dental procedures on credit. Each centre has been allotted a closed space of 300 square feet area and licensed to the private agency.

CGHS Delhi has signed a MOA with the said private agency with detailed Terms and Conditions which include timings, Guidelines and list of procedures along with rates. The MOA is valid for 5 years with effect from 2010.