

Introduction of cellulose-based vegetarian capsules

1860. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation will shortly decide over, bringing into the market the cellulose-based vegetarian capsules by replacing widely used animal-based gelatin capsules;

(b) whether it is a fact that the new vegetarian capsules are more safer than animal-based capsules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has approved use of Empty Hydroxyl Methyl Cellulose capsules for drug formulations.

(b) No such evidence is available with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) Does not arise.

Public spending on health infrastructure

1861. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public spending on health in India is almost the lowest in the world;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government at the Central and State level to improve health related infrastructure in the country; and

(c) whether it is a fact that health and medical services are becoming costlier day-by-day for the common man of the country, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Details showing Public expenditure on health as percentage of GDP in India *vis-a-vis* select developed/developing countries for 2012, are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) In order to improve health related infrastructure in the country, the Government has taken several steps which *inter-alia* include :