

**Physiotherapy and occupational therapy**

1885. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether physiotherapy and occupational therapy are separate disciplines;

(b) whether physiotherapist can be in-charge of occupational therapists and *vice-versa*; and

(c) whether the occupational therapist can practise the physiotherapy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy are two separate disciplines and have different training curriculum; and as such, practitioners of one discipline cannot practice the other.

**Guidelines to attend the accident victims**

1886. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have issued any guidelines to Government Hospitals/Medical Institutions in the country to attend immediately the victims of accidents without waiting for legal medico formalities like F.I.R. etc. from Police; and

(b) if not, the provisions which exist in I.P.C. Cr. PC. and Motor Vehicles Act for promptly attending to seriously injured persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) With a view to ensure that accident victims get immediate first aid, instructions, based on the Supreme Court directive were issued by this Ministry to all the States/Union Territories/Central Government Hospitals/Institutions to the effect that all patients whose condition is morbid/serious should be admitted even if beds are not available and have to be paid all necessary attention and in no case the patient will be left unattended for want of vacant beds in the emergency/casualty department.

[20 August, 2004]

RAHYA SABHA

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has informed that they have circulated a Circular issued by Delhi Police regarding need to build confidence in public for helping road accident victims *inter-alia* emphasizing that the members of the public, who rendered voluntary help to persons injured in accidents, should not unnecessarily be questioned and detained at police stations, to all the States/UTs requesting therein to take action on the similar lines in this regard in their States/UTs.

Further, Section 134 of the Motor Vehicle Act also provides that when any person is injured as a result of an accident in which a motor vehicle is involved, the driver of the vehicle or other person incharge of the vehicle shall take reasonable steps to secure medical attention for the injured person, by conveying him to the nearest medical practitioner or hospital, and it shall be the duty of every registered medical practitioner or the doctor on the duty in the hospital immediately to attend to the injured person and render medical aid or treatment without waiting for any procedural formalities, unless the injured person or his guardian, in case is a minor, desires otherwise.

#### **New guidelines of WHO**

1887. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new guidelines issued by WHO aiming at helping national health authorities to develop reliable information for consumers-guarding against adverse or fatal reactions to so-called traditional or alternative medicines (herbal medicines, acupuncture, etc.) purchased across the counter; and

(b) if so, whether these guidelines have percolated to medical units at district levels for dissemination to general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. WHO in its Press released dated 22nd June, 2004 mentioned about the release of a new set of guidelines for health authorities by WHO emphasizing WHO'S support for traditional & alternative medicines when these have demonstrated benefits for the patients & minimal risks. Prior