

from Government to issue medicines prescribed only by the RML Hospital or Government Hospitals and not be the approved Hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedure at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/Govt. hospital/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

(c) No, Sir. CGHS beneficiaries who take treatment in private hospitals recognised under CGHS with the prior permission of the Govt. are issued medicines for a period of one month from the date of discharge from the hospital based on the prescription of the said private hospital. However, patients of Cancer, Cardio thoracic surgeries Knee/Hip Joint Replacement and Kidney Transplant are granted permission for taking follow up treatment in the same recognised private hospital based on whose prescription the CGHS dispensary issues OPD medicines to the beneficiaries. The extension for follow-up is given three to six months at a time.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

Ayurvedic medicine for AIDS treatment

1155. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Government's plans to increase the level of awareness among general people about the deadly disease AIDS; and

(b) whether Government are aware of an Ayurvedic medicine, which enhances the immune system in human body to the extent that the AIDS virus becomes harmless in due course and the patient lives a normal life?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In the Phase II of the National AIDS

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RAJYA SABHA

Control Programme (1999-2004), Government is giving the highest priority to an effective and sustained awareness campaign amongst the general population through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC).

The Government's programme for awareness generation follows a multi media approach which include television, radio, press, print, and outdoor publicity and interpersonal communication and advocacy. These are carried out extensively through linkages with media units of Information and Broadcasting Ministry, and through intersectoral partnerships with other ministries and sectors.

For sensitization of children and young people, the School AIDS Education Programme, the Universities Talk AIDS and Village Talk AIDS programmes are being implemented in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

(b) No, Sir. No Ayurvedic medicine has been reported which enhances the immune response within the human body to the extent that the HIV/AIDS virus becomes ineffective and harmless.

Production of spurious drugs

1156. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the production and distribution of spurious drugs;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware about their implications on the health of the citizens; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop distribution and production of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicines is a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by the enforcement authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs in the interstate commerce. Government of India has taken the following steps: