

have been reserved for physically handicapped—1% each for the blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped.

- (ii) Special Employment Exchanges for physically handicapped; 22 Special Employment Exchanges for physically handicapped and 42 Special Cells in normal employment exchanges for handicapped have normal employment exchanges for handicapped have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in gainful employment. Besides, normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped person in finding suitable employment.
- (iii) Vocational Rehabilitation Centres: 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres are at present set up through-out the country. The services offered by Vocational Rehabilitation Centers include medical evaluation, vocational evaluation, skill development and placement.

[English]

Condoms for Women

2272. SHRI Y.S. RAJA SHEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether surgeons and medical experts of USA have developed condom for women which has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of US for marketing in that country?

(b) whether the same has been tested by the Operations Research Group in Baroda to conduct a market survey in India before it is sent to the Indian Council of

Medical Research to get permission for setting up a plant to manufacture the condoms in India;

(c) if so, the latest position in this regard;

(d) the broad features of the device; and

(e) whether any assessment has been made of its suitability in the Indian conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) Dr. A.V. K. Reddy, a general surgeon from Wyoming, USA has developed a latex rubber device for the use women similar in nature to that of "condoms" a US based pharmaceutical firm "Akron Rubber Development" has collaborated with Dr. Reddy to manufacture the product. It has been claimed by Dr. AVK Reddy that the device has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

(b) and (c). The information is being collected.

(d) The device consists of a disposal latex device designed to fit loosely inside the vagina and also covers the perineum. It can be inserted in advance of intercourse and is claimed to effectively prevent any contact with body secretions of the partners. Thus its alleged benefits is to provide both contraceptive products as well as products by STD including AIDS.

(e) No study has been carried out to assess its suitability in our country.

Support Prices of Kharif Crops

2273. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state: