

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported by the Director, Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medical Education and Research, that the drugs not on V. M. S. list of Medical Stores Depot are purchased from firms licensed by Drugs Controller, Public Sector enterprises and approved firms on Government rate contract on the recommendation of the Expert Drug Committee of the Institute and as such no preliminary testing is done in the Institute or outside.

(c) In case the clinical efficacy of any drug is in doubt the matter is reported to the concerned authorities for taking suitable action.

#### **Health Risks from Metals in Food-stuffs and Water**

6990. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the general health risks arising from metals in foodstuffs and water which are being spread through the air also and are harmful for plants, animals as well as human beings and if so, results of any studies conducted so far;

(b) what are the main metals involved in the above and the nature of health risks; and

(c) whether World Health Organisation have set any limits and whether these are being followed in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :** (a) Government is aware of the possibilities of the general health risk from metals as a result of increasing industrialisation. A worldwide collaborative WHO/UNDP Project carried out with great care at the beginning of this decade did not reveal excessive intakes of lead and cadmium in the average population in 3 urban localities in India. A multicentric study supported by Department of Environment is currently underway to get the

baseline data for heavy metals in water, food and air.

(b) Main metals of concern are cadmium, lead mercury and arsenic. Cadmium causes damage to kidney and bones whereas lead and mercury are principally neurotoxic. Arsenic may cause dermatitis.

(c) WHO has set limits of tolerance for a few heavy metals. The limits of heavy metals in various foods have already been prescribed under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

As regards water, Government has also prescribed its own guidelines for acceptability of drinking water laying down the tolerance limits of heavy metals.

#### **Proposal for Uniformity in Tariffs in Major Ports**

6991. SHRIMATI INDUMATI BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for fixing tariffs for the different major ports;

(b) the port charges and wharfage rates charged at different major ports;

(c) the reasons for differences in tariffs in the major ports;

(d) whether ports having lower tariff rates are attracting more traffic than the other ports where tariff rates are higher; and

(e) if so, whether Government have any proposal to make the tariffs uniform in all major ports ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) The traffic passing through a port consists of many commodities. The ability to bear the port charges may vary considerably with individual commodities. Some commodities may not stand the full costs, which include depreciation, overheads and minimum return on capital employed. Commodities like coal and salt will move only when the charges are substantially low. In such cases the ports are required to recover only the bare cost of moving such traffic which are direct costs and constitute