

Use of Harmful Injectible Contraceptive

8747. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Women's organisations throughout the country have raised strong protests against the drug policy of Government and the experiment being carried out Indian women with extremely harmful drugs on such as injectible contraceptive;

(b) whether E.P. Forte drug which combines hormones of Oestrogen and Progesterone in a very high quantity, primarily used for pregnancy testing, leads to birth of deformed babies, is being manufactured and sold in the country under different brand names and their sales are to the tune of Rs. 7 crores a year;

(c) whether the WHO Technical Services Report says that the use of these drugs in pregnancy doubles the risk in giving birth to children with heart and limb deformities; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to ban the manufacture and sale of EP Forte drugs in India ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) One Women's Organisation based in Andhra Pradesh has filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court protesting against the use of the injectible contraceptive NET-OEN under the the National Family Welfare Programme.

(b) to (d). As per the order of the Supreme Court, the Drugs Controller (India) had conducted 4 public meetings inviting public in general including experts to generate the benefit risk ratio of high dose Oestrogen and Progestogen preparation moving in the market. Based on the data, generated, the issue was discussed at the Drugs Technical Advisory Board meeting recently. DTAP has recommended to prohibit manufacture and sale of high dose of Oestrogen and Progestogen preparations. The recommendation will be communicated to the Supreme Court for further action in the matter.

It is given in the WHO Technical Report that use of hormones, including Oestrogen and Progesterone by pregnant women, increases the risk giving birth to children with heart and limb deformities.

Introduction of a Shuttle Train Between Nalhani and Guwahati

8748. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request had been received from Government of Assam for introduction of a daily shuttle Train Service from Nalhani in the morning to Guwahati and vice versa in the evening; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A request has been received for introduction of train from Nalbari to Guwahati.

(b) The request was examined and not found justified in face of low passenger traffic and existing train services.

[Translation]

News Captioned "Logon ki Jaan se khel rahi hain Neem hakim paida karne wali Shiksha ki Dukanen"

8749. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated 7 January, 1988 under the caption "Logon ki Jaan Se Khel Rahi Hain Neem Hakim Paida Karne Wali Shiksha Ki Dukanen";

(b) whether it is a fact that the Monopoly and Restricted Trade Practices Commission has put a ban on the advertisements of 'R.M.P. of India' organisation and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are such other organisations in the country and if so, whether Government also propose to put a ban on them; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHA-PARDE) (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, New Delhi has issued on ex-parte ad-interim injunction dated the 4th January, 1988 restraining the Rural Medical Practitioners Association of India, Pondicherry from making false and misleading claims as to the grant of registration as 'R.M.P. of India'. The order has been made on the application of the Director General of investigation and Registration stating that the organisation has made false claims regarding titles granted by it. The matter is, however, still pending before the Commission for final orders.

(c) and (d). The State Governments have reported about the existence of similar organisations in the country and that necessary Police inquiries have been instituted against them. The Government of India have also advised the State Governments recently to initiate necessary action against such organisations so as to protect the general public against being induced to obtain medical degrees or diplomas in any system of medicine which are not recognised by the competent bodies.

Expansion of Lucknow Airport

8750. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to State :

(a) whether the existing terminal building and the air strip of Lucknow Airport are adequate to meet the needs of the growing traffic;

(b) if not, the steps Government propose to take for its expansion;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be expanded ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) to (c). The terminal building and the runway are adequate to meet the requirements of existing traffic. Provision has been made in the draft 7th Five Year Plan of the National Airports Authority for expansion of the terminal building and strengthening the runway. The work is planned to be taken up in 1989-90, subject to availability of resources.

Incentive Scheme to stop Smoking Habits

8751. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether smoking affects adversely on public health;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to launch any voluntary and incentive scheme for impressing upon the people to shed this habit and to check the spreading of this habit among non-smokers;

(c) whether Government would make it obligatory to print the ill effects of smoking on the packets of cigarettes and bidis so that the existing addicts of smoking can get rid of this habit;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, the scheme of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) and (b). The Government has already launched intensive health education programme to create awareness against smoking through TV/Radio, posters and distribution of Pamphlets.

(c) to (e). The existing legislation, namely, 'the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975 provides for incorporating a specified warning on cigarette packets/cartons and in cigarette advertisements. Since