

conomic development, transfer of technology and health and safety of the workforce; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation in question is under examination.

Ban on Sale of some Fixed Dose Combinations of Drugs

683. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently decided to impose a ban on the sale of five widely used fixed dose combinations of drugs;

(b) if so, the details regarding these drugs; and

(c) the reasons for their ban?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Drugs Technical Advisory Board, on the recommendation of the expert committee, had earlier approved withdrawal of the following fixed dose combinations:-

- (i) Fixed dose combination of tranquilizers with analgesics and antipyretics.
- (ii) Fixed dose combination of H₂ receptor antagonist (such as Cimetidine, Ranitidine) with other drugs.
- (iii) Fixed dose combination of essential oils with alcohol having percentage higher than 20% proof.

(iv) Addition of Chloroform as an active ingredient in any preparation for oral use.

(v) Fixed dose combinations of Pyrazinamide with other anti-T.B. drugs.

As regards fixed dose combination of Pyrazinamide with other anti-T.B. drugs, the expert committee was required to examine such combinations due to recently published evidence of rationality for certain types of formulations containing Pyrazinamide. Based on the national and international data, the expert committee recommended withdrawal of various fixed dose combination of Pyrazinamide with other anti-T.B. drugs, except fixed dose combination of Pyrazinamide (500 mg), Rifampicin (150 mg) and INH (100 mg) as such a combination is proved to be effective in resistant cases of T.B. This recommendation of the expert committee is under consideration of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

(c) These fixed dose combinations are recommended for withdrawal on the ground of lack of evidence of rationality.

Environmental Pollution at Thermal Power Station In Talcher

684. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages affected by the environmental pollution around the Thermal Power Station at Talcher in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to check the environmental pollution there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Exact number of villages affected by the environmental pollution around Thermal Station at Talcher in Orissa are not known.