

(c) Yes, Sir. There are complaints regarding non-payment of P.F. dues to the workers of closed industrial units.

(d) The EPF authorities are taking all possible legal and penal action to recover the outstanding dues from the defaulting employers. With a view to avoid hardship to the concerned worker, the EPF authorities are also paying the unpaid part of employees' share of contribution, deducted from the wages of the workers from a Special Reserve Fund, deducted from the wages of the workers from a Special Reserve Fund, pending realisation of the amount from the employers. The employers share of contribution is paid to them, after it is actually realised from the employer.

List of Essential Drugs Compiled by Union Government

4907. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not compiled the list of essential drugs so far;

(b) whether Government have recommended certain drugs as non-essential which fall under the essential list of WHO; and

(c) if so, the names of those drugs and the basis on which Government have recommended for their inclusion in list of non-essential drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Government have not compiled any list of Essential Drugs at the national level. However, list of drugs commonly used at Primary Health Centres and sub-centres have been compiled.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Manufacturing of Rifampicin

4908. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rifampicin is used for control of TB and leprosy;

(b) whether TB and leprosy eradication programmes come under the National Health Programme;

(c) whether this drug is manufactured from intermediate stage and the foreign exchange component spent in the production of this drug is higher than the finished bulk drug; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which Government have recommended for shifting the category?

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

(c) and (d). Representations were received by the Ministry to consider re-categorisation of Rifampicin from Category I to Category II as the proposed Fermentation technique for manufacture of Rifampicin is capital intensive and the low mark-up given for Category I drugs would not encourage production of the drug which is considered essential for running two programmes, namely Tuberculosis and Leprosy and thus leading to shortage in availability of the drug in the market. Considering the above facts, the Ministry of Health and F.W. recommended to the Ministry of Industry (Deptt. of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals) for re-categorisation of Rifampicin from Category I to